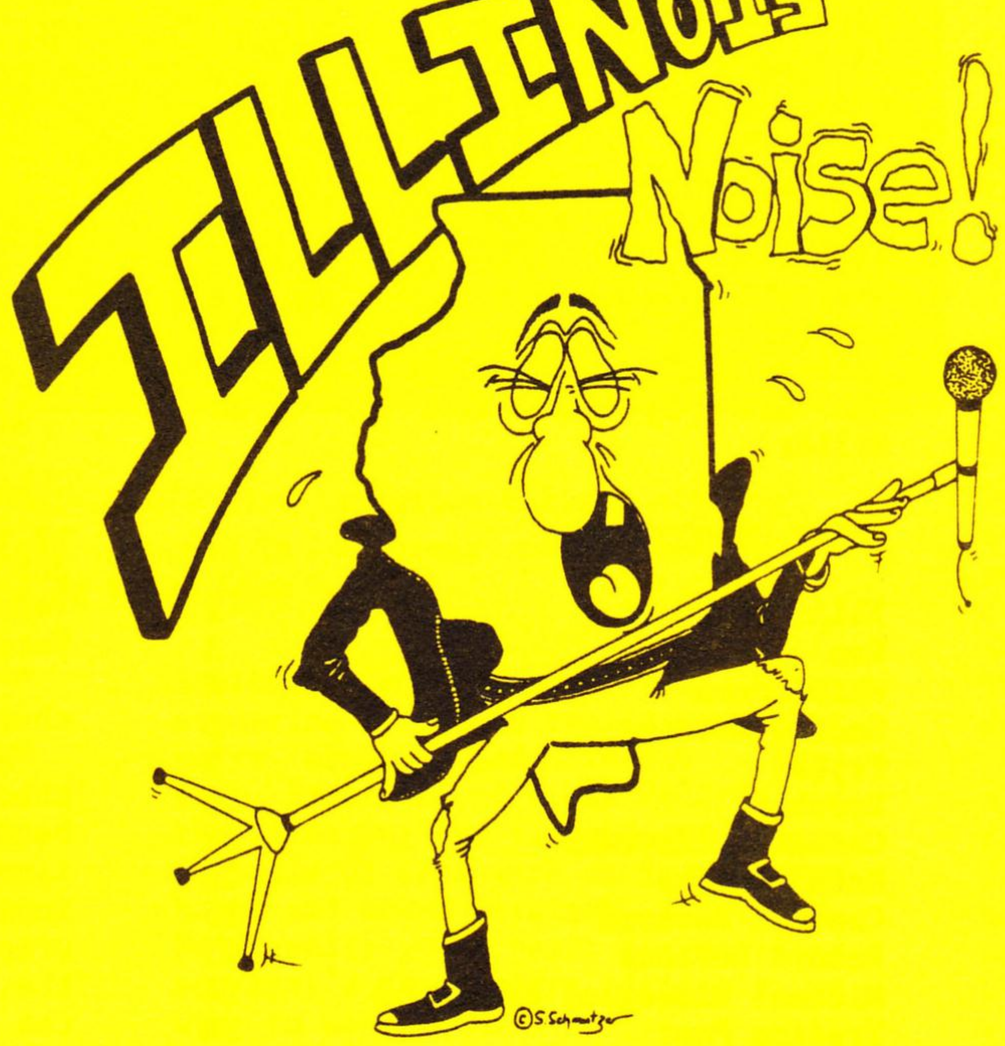
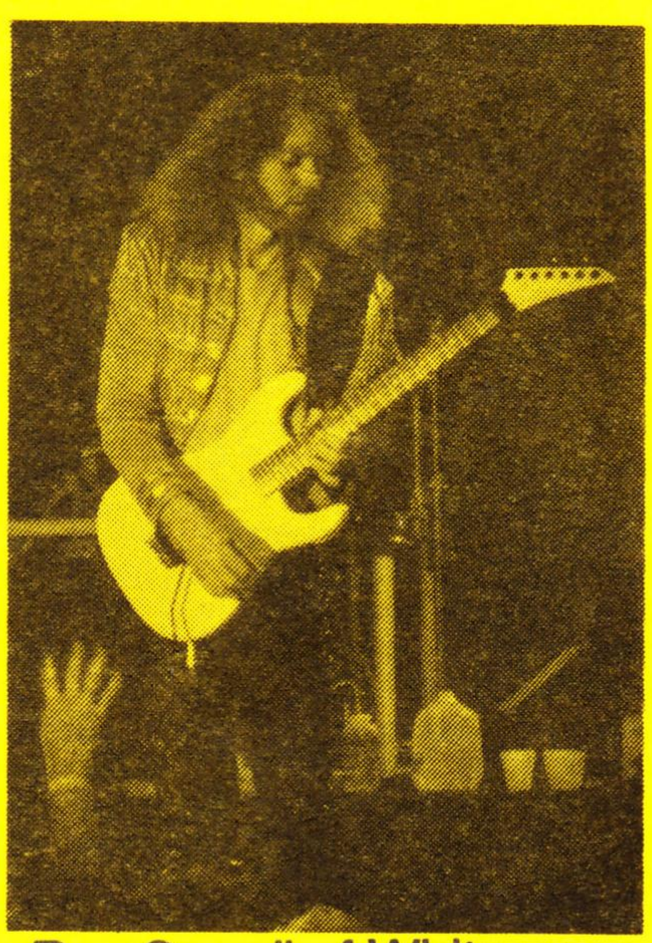
Number 18
$2.95

Heaven's Metal

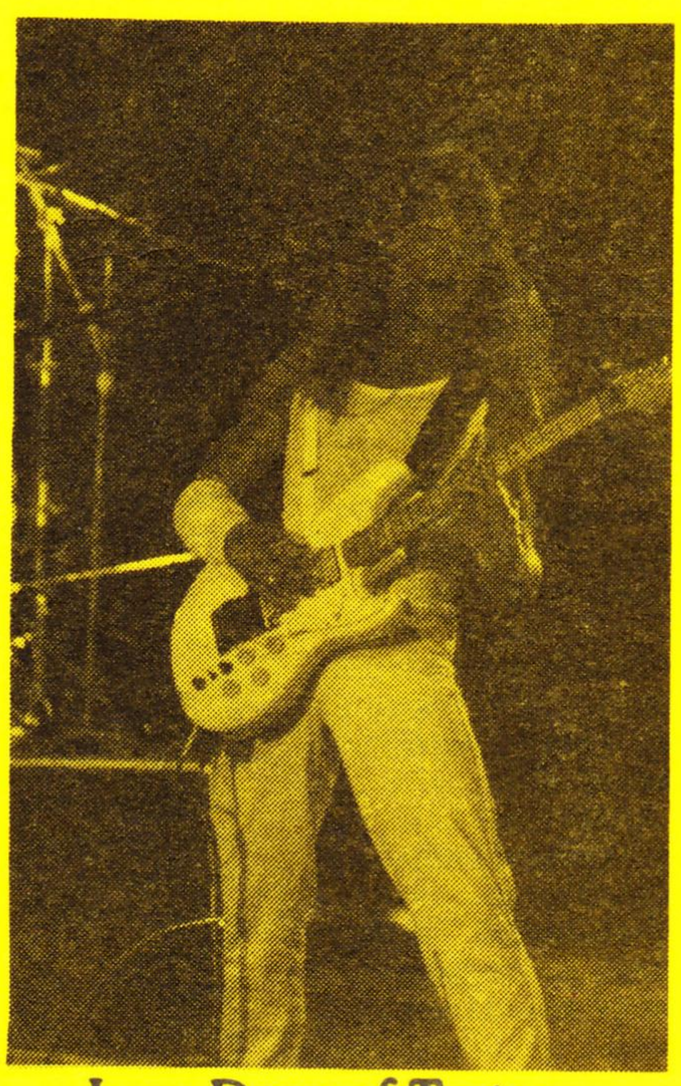
Glenn Kaiser of REZ





Rex Carroll of Whitecross

Bruce Swift of Sacred Warrior



Lary Dean of Trytan

Heaven's Metal is a bi-monthly magazine covering the metal of the kingdom. Jesus is the ruler of this kingdom. All reverence, praise and honor are due Him.

Heaven's Metal address:
902 Romeria Drive # 107
Austin, Texas 78757 USA

Editor: Doug Van Pelt.
Official Staff Members:
Caroline Knox
Bob Hopkins
Member Martyrs Cross Zines
Special thanks to: Steve Schmutzer for his excellent artwork and oh-so dramatic writing; Maury Millican for the hot reviews and all the help from you and your Mac; Paul Q-Pek for the reviews and all the great ideas; Karen Loke for the photography; Caesar Kalinowski for the awesome Sacred Warrior centerfold; Curtis Tarpley for the photography; Mission Hills Church for the spiritual covering and prayers; Mom and Dad for love; Darrell, Bob Ferman and the entire Camp Kitaki crew for giving this "Magazine from Texas" the royal treatment; Russell Smith for the printing; Laura Murray for helping transcribe the Trytan interview; Lynn Miller for your help on the Mac...Maybe your Mac, Maury's Mac and my Commodore can do lunch sometime?; and all you readers for your prayers and encouragement.

Sorry for the wait between Issue #17 and #18! Don't forget to call Sanctuary if you ever need counseling or just talk to somebody: 1-800-548-5222.

Prayer Partners, Heaven's Metal and More

Each subscriber to Heaven's Metal has two prayer partners. The way I've arranged that is by taking the name above and below each name on the subscription list and matched them, so that the same people you're praying for have your name also. If you don't have the names and addresses of your prayer partners (there's a lot of you), write in and I'll send 'em to you.

If you'd like to receive bulks of Heaven's Metal to hand out to friends or at concerts, etc, send $1.50 per issue (minimum of 10).

If you'd like to advertise in Heaven's Metal, or know someone who would, get them in touch with me.

If you know a store that would be open to carrying Heaven's Metal, have the person who orders magazines contact me.

If you'd be willing to make xerox copies of a Heaven's Metal flyer and post it around your town, record stores, etc, I'll send you a master copy.

Heaven's Metal sells Pure Metal records, tapes and compact discs through the mail. R & K are $7.98 each. Cd's are $10.98. Please add $1.50 postage. This is predominantly a service to those who can't find Pure Metal product where you live. Please don't order if you're expecting to receive a new release as soon as it comes out, because I receive the product much later than the stores do.

Why not give the gift of Heaven's Metal? Sign up a friend for a subscription. **Heaven's Metal T-shirts** are now sold out.

Real good news! Heaven's Metal is now distributed through Spring Arbor to Christian bookstores. If you'd like to see your local bookstore sell Heaven's Metal, tell 'em to order it from Spring Arbor and give 'em the following ISBN #: 000-688-7104.

Subscriptions are $7.77 (Texas residents add 7 1/4% sales tax). Overseas subs are $16, and Canadian subs are now $8.00.

Sorry: Last issue's cover shot of One Bad Pig was taken by Lynn Miller.

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Illinois Noise	**2**
Rez	**3**
Whitecross	**4**
Sacred Warrior	**8**
Trytan	**9**
Trouble	**11**
Caesar Kalinowski	**12**
Metal Tracks	**15**
Concert Reviews	**17**
Record Reviews	**27**
Michael Bloodgood Editorial	**34**
Trading Post	**36**
Contest	**40**

Back Issues of Heaven's Metal are available in limited quantities. They are $1.25 each and available on a first-come, first-served basis. (Please add an extra $1 on total order for postage.) Once quantities are out, they're gone.

Issue #1 is 6 pages long and features Stryper. #2 is 16 pages and features Jerusalem, Ian Ripper, and Prophet. #3 is 12 pages and features The Daniel Band, Trouble, Darrell Mansfield, and Philadelphia. #4 is 12 pages and features Barren Cross and Vision. #5 is 12 pages and features Bloodgood and Roxalt. #6 is 16 pages and features Stryper, Rick Cua, Golgatha, and Steve Camp. #7 is 16 pages and features Stryken, Stryper, and TNK. #8 is 20 pages and features Eternal Ryte, Trytan, BC, Saint, and Arkangel. #9 is 24 pages and features Bloodgood, Apostle, Zion, Jerusalem, Holy Soldier, Petra, Rapture and First Strike. #10 is 24 pages and features Idle Cure, Aslan, Deroque, Paradox, Whitecross, One Bad Pig, Gideon's Army, Messiah Prophet, and an interview with editor Doug Van Pelt. #11 is 28 pages and features Barren Cross, Stryper, Deliverance, Gardian, Bride, Dual Edge, Vessell, and Bloodgood. #12 is 28 pages and features Rage Of Angels, Tempest, Bloodgood, Trytan, and Mark Farner. #13 is 28 pages and features Leviticus, Charizma, Jerusalem, Simson, Whitecross, and Rez. #14 is 36 pages and features Bloodgood, Gardian, BC, and Darrell Mansfield. #15 is 36 pages and features Whitecross, Saint, Sacred Warrior, and Darrell Mansfield. #16 is 36 pages and features Holy Soldier, Eternal Ryte, Vengeance, Soldier, Eric Blair, BC, Whitecross, Jerusalem, and an interview with Bob Beeman of the Sanctuary church. #17 is 44 pages and features Vengeance, Deliverance, One Bad Pig, Ezra, Leviticus, King's X, Barnabas, BC, and Malachia. (Limit 2 copies each from #'s 15, 16, and 17.)

Illinois Noise

Another band from Illinois that's up and coming is Sons Of Thunder. Bob Hopkins interviewed them at a recent show they played at The Warehouse in Aurora, Illinois.

**Do you guys all go to the same church? Where do you get fed?

"We all go to the same Baptist church in Ingleside. Within the band we do Bible study and prayer time. Those are really the most important time, even before practice. We've been learning over the past couple of years that you can practice and practice and get your set down tight, but if you're not tight with the Lord, you're gonna walk out onstage and blow it. We've been in practice where we're so tight it's unbelievable and walk out the next night onstage and look like we've never played before. It's because we weren't tight with the Lord. We could be tight with audience musically, but if the Lord's not there...He's the One that gives you the power and strength to be on stage."

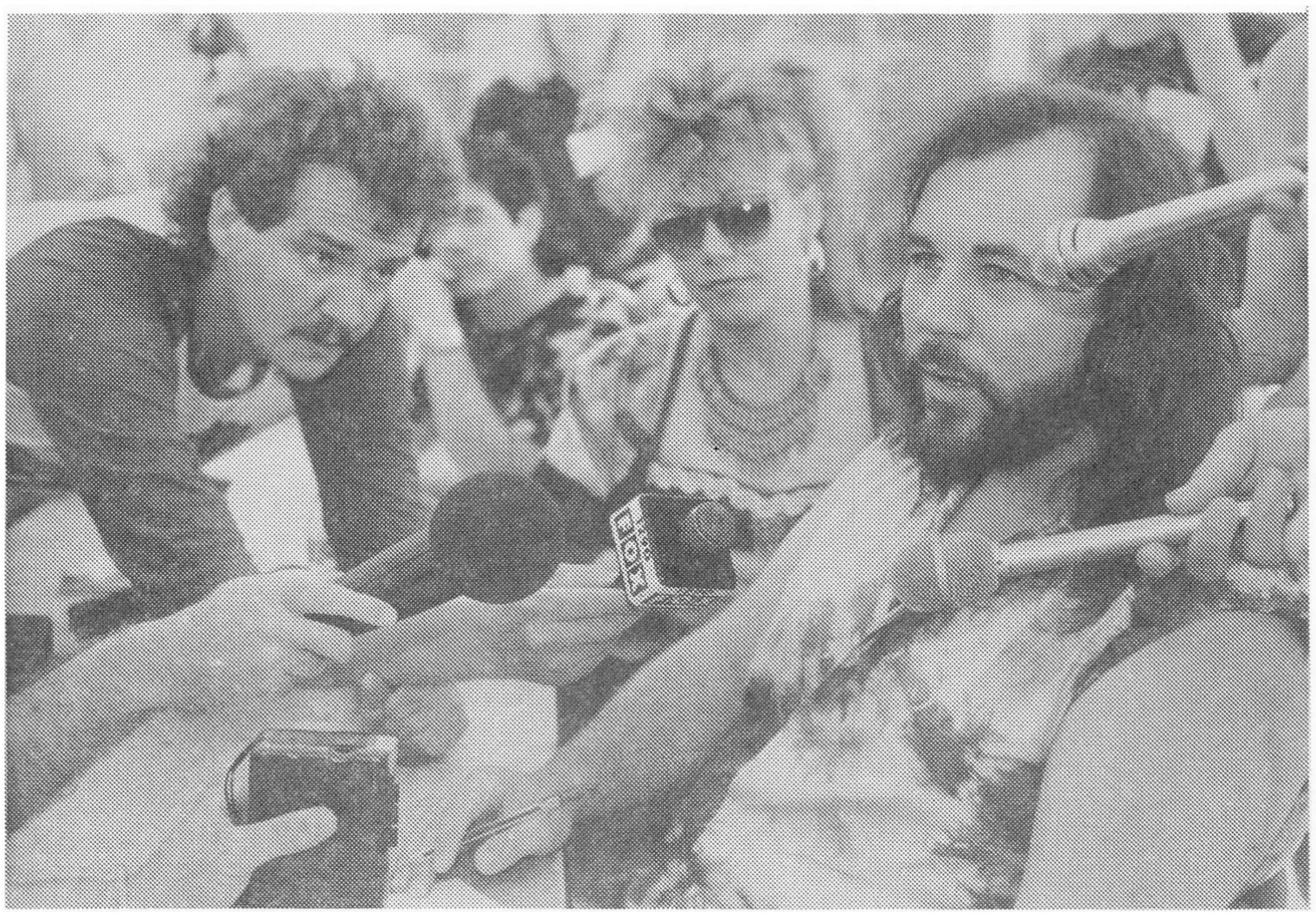
**Was it an important step for all the guys in the band to be committed to Christ?

"Oh yes. It's an imperative. If we're not one in vision and one in Christ, then we can't be united and we wouldn't be able to tolerate each other.

"In the Fall we're going to be going into the studio to do a four-song demo." You can write Sons Of Thunder, PO Box 38, McHenry IL 60050. "To book us for shows, you can call (815) 385-7471.

Another Illinois band worth note is **Legionaire.** You can write them c/o Sandy Denys, 15031 Beachview Terr, Dolton IL 60419.

Rez "Screams" Out With New Release, New Label



Anybody Gotta Pen? Glenn Kaiser of Rez's first question before signing a preliminary agreement with Ocean Records in a press conference at Chicago's Cornerstone '88. **Photo By Karen Loke**

By Karen Loke

Imagine sitting in a room full of people and nobody's saying a word. Everyone is trying to find an answer to the age old question, "What will you say when you stand before God and give an account for your life here?"

Glenn Kaiser knows that feeling of uneasiness. He was there when he put the question to a bunch of kids at a youth camp in Colorado. "And it was like dead silence for about a minute and a half. It just struck me, this is exactly what it's going to be like on Judgement Day. There's not going to be anyone able to say anything in answer to God if they rejected Him here. And at the end of this thing, it was like uncomfortable silence, and this kid just stared at his shoes. It was so intense I just couldn't believe it. I pulled out a pad and wrote the lyrics to this song and it ended up being the title of the album."

"Silence Screams" is the name of Rez Band's long-awaited new release and the band's excited about it. At a press conference at Cornerstone '88, Kaiser announced the release of the album for this Fall. (It is now out.) And to top it off, you'll find it listed under a new record label. Rez's record label! Grrr Records, they're calling it, distributed by Ocean Records.

"We've prayed long and hard that we wouldn't just sign another contract. Not just another deal for another few years, you know, wondering if people really know what we're about. And Freddie (Fred Piro, President of Ocean Records) is the first guy who flew up and spent a couple of days with us in our own house and asked straight questions. He's really got a heart for ministry and that's the quality of people we want to work with."

Kaiser says the arrangement with the distribution is unique. "Distribution is going to be through Word, plus Freddie's going to be shopping secular labels. The agreement is such that we're not going to be tied to having to go through Word's A&M distribution. We can do anything we like secularly and overseas as well."

"Silence Screams" is the first album to be released on Grrr Records and Kaiser says the two and a half year project speaks out against being silent. "Certainly there's a time to be quiet, but there's also a time to speak and we're living in a generation that really needs to think deeply about issues. It's too bad that the non-Christians are always the ones to come to the forefront with things like "Live-Aid", "Farm-Aid", and you know first aid whatever. I'm glad someone's doing something. But the problem is you can even do good things because that's the campy thing to do right now. It's the new gig. And I'm afraid that even in the Christian music scene, if we're not careful, we'll fall into that, you know it's like the new hook to hang our next album on, some kind of theme. I think people ought to speak what they consistently live."

Wendi Kaiser added that there's a real heart of who Rez is in this album. "We're trying to challenge our generation and the younger generation to really take a look at their values as Christians and as non-Christians. Are we in a state of 'Who cares?' You know, 'What's happening in this world?' This album speaks out on different issues that we feel are really pertinent."

"Silence Screams" brings up several issues. One song, "Waiting On Sundown", speaks about the homeless. "Someone Sleeps" deals with the inhumanity of war and revolutions from the perspective of the common people who live in the villages and have to put up with the nonsense day in and day out. But as far as an overall theme, "I'd say we talk a lot about silence and where it's at and where it isn't at," Glenn said.

Just to clarify any questions about the song, "Presence Of The Lord", yes, it was an old Eric Clapton song and it is on the "Blind Faith" album. "People have wondered because we've taken a pretty strong stance against secular rock, in the sense of does it really edify us over the years. I don't know what Stevie Winwood meant when he sang it, but I know what I mean and so does everybody else."

Kaiser says the album goes back to a blues-based sound. "We're trying to get back to the spirit of 'Awaiting Your Reply'. We have moved way away from synthesizers and way more into guitar, bass, drums, kinda in-your-face real strong rock." He laughed adding that after seventeen years you have to be careful not to wind up being a parody of yourself.

Roy Montroy, who replaced Jim Denton in the band about a year ago, has written half of the music with a more modern approach, Kaiser said. "He writes songs that I wish I would have written, but I only wrote the lyrics. But it's more bluesy and a little soulish and you may even hear some of those old Zeppelin tunes you hear on Rez every now and again. It's kinda like the Lord says, 'Things old and things new.'"

Other projects Rez is working on includes a praise and worship album to be released on Grrr Records and a solo blues album. "One of the fun things is I get to play everything on it. I play drums and bass a little and even some harmonica, but not like my friend Darrell Mansfield," Kaiser laughed and hinted that Mansfield may be playing "harp" for him. The band is also talking about re-issuing old albums rather than re-writing old songs and putting them on new albums.

REZ cont'd on page 10

Taking It To The Limit With Whitecross

By Caroline Knox

Whitecross does it again! Their latest album, "Hammer And Nail" follows up their debut with a rocker that is true to the Whitecross name. Editor Doug Van Pelt recently caught up with lead guitarist Rex Carroll, who elaborated on the project.

Having released a debut album, an EP and this latest album in approximately one year, Rex was on a pretty tight schedule with the new album. "It was a pretty panicked schedule. In fact, I was working seven days a week for two months to get it done...with 14-hour days." The difference in studio time between this album and the first, according to Rex, was "probably double the first album. As a matter of fact, probably within 10 studio hours of being double the first record. Hopefully, that will show in the production, too. I had better resources available."

The amount of time and effort is evident in the finished product. Rex shared with us a bit on how this album sizes up with the first album musically. "On a musical level, I think the biggest difference that people are gonna notice is the rhythm section. It sounds a whole lot bigger than the last time. Of course, a lot of that is contributable to having a year's experience and some major road work happenin'. A lot of that is also attributable to having a more realistic budget to work with to create a good-sounding record." Rex went on to comment on his own guitar work on the album. "I tried to go for a sound that was real similar to the guitar sound on the first album. I wanted to get the feel of the first album and expand it. It's a little bit cleaner. I'm paying a little bit closer attention to the microphones and EQ's and cutting enough rhythm tracks to make the thing work. Last time I had one guitar and I cut two tracks of rhythm with one guitar. This time I was working with four different guitars. So, a lot of times, even if there's only two rhythm tracks, I've used a different guitar for each one. When you do 'em, you play the same part so you get the blend of the tone. It's like each guitar has got a hot spot on the tonal range, so you put 'em together and hopefully you find two guitars that compliment each other. Some bands that have two guitar players rely on their different playing styles to get a complimentary sound. When I cut a rhythm track, it's the same part both times, so I have to rely more on the difference in tones between the guitars to create a bigger image.

"We don't waste any time getting a good guitar sound when I go back and cut the rhythm sound. I spend a day and a half just messing with the microphones to get the guitar sound exactly right."

With this album, Whitecross fans can catch a glimpse of yet another facet of the band's own style. "We recorded the whole album at Grand Slam. We brought back the blues feel a little bit. Actually, last year we did one album, so people got to see a certain side of the musical personalities of the band, but there's more faces of Whitecross that will begin to come through after we have four or five albums out. People will see a more well-rounded picture of what exactly our influences are. Of course, I grew up listening to Led-Zeppelin and Cream. They were very influential bands to me. Bad Company...All of these older bands that kids don't look to today. All they know is that their older brother or uncle or someone like that has those old albums. I'm also aware of what the new groups are doin' too. We're not actually getting away from our sound. I'd say the album is like a continuation of what we were doing on the first album. Hopefully, it's coming a bit more into our own style. On the last album, a lot of people said we sounded like Ratt. That's fine.

"I think we should be setting the standard for the rest of the world."

That was the first album and, if people want to make comparisons, I have no problem with that. It helps establish an identity for the band. Now we've gone a little bit further to try and add a few things in there that define a bit more who we are musically."

About the solo "Hammer And Nail", Rex said, "It's kinda like what I did on the Fierce Heart album. It's real similar, but I've taken it a step further. Like, on the Fierce Heart album I did the whole thing on two notes."

When recording, Rex will sit in and play with John and Mark and lay down a scratch rhythm track. Then he'll record the real rhythm track alone. Then they'll record the vocals. "It's like you really need the vocals down to do the leads. The leads will often times rip in and out of the corners that the vocals leave open."

After he described the musicianship of the album, Rex commented on the lyrical content. "Hopefully, the lyrics are as loud and 'in your face' as the last album. Mark has started co-writing a couple of tunes. We hope to have him participating more now. Johnny actually wrote one line in a tune. We're trying to get the whole band more involved in writing.

"The lyrics are right out front. Basically, the message of the album overall is kind of a testimonial. One song, "Because Of Jesus", really sums up a lot of things. It tells where we're at in the band. On the rest of the album there's a lot of songs that are on the lyrical level of something to draw people in that would normally not listen to Christian music. We're trying to be subtle without being oblique. There's a difference, you know? Not at all trying to cover up the message, but trying to get people to think about it a little more. Not so much that, but trying to use lyrics that would make more sense to someone who's not familiar with 'Christianese'. 'Christianese' is like a language that we tend to speak in the church. It's almost like a subculture. Words like 'I'm born again', 'saved', 'under the blood'. Those kinds of terms are words that Christians understand, but someone who's not a Christian doesn't necessarily know what we're talking about. We try to write songs that use terms they can relate to a little more. We will never go for toning dowm the message to get more secular acceptance. We will never do something like that. That's not our calling. Our calling is to be right out front."

Musical and lyrical excellence are obviously of prime importance to the band, as Rex put it: "Hopefully, if we sell enough copies of the new record, we'll be able to continue to pursue artistic excellence. That's very important to me, personally. It's the battle against mediocrity. I can't stand poorly-produced records or poor performances on the records themselves. A lot of times people cover that with, 'Well, it's for the Lord,' therefore people will just accept it at a lower quality standard. I disagree with that. I think it's exactly the other way around. I think that we should be setting the standard for the rest of the world. It's hard, because there's not a lot of dollars that give you the time. It takes money to produce a good product and to keep the musicians working so that they can pursue the artistic excellence in their craft. It's a real tough thing. There's a lot of obstacles that we have that groups in the secular music business don't have. You just have to be really committed to doing the best job possible at all times. Raising the artistic standard is something that people hopefully are gonna notice."

C.T.

K.L. ©

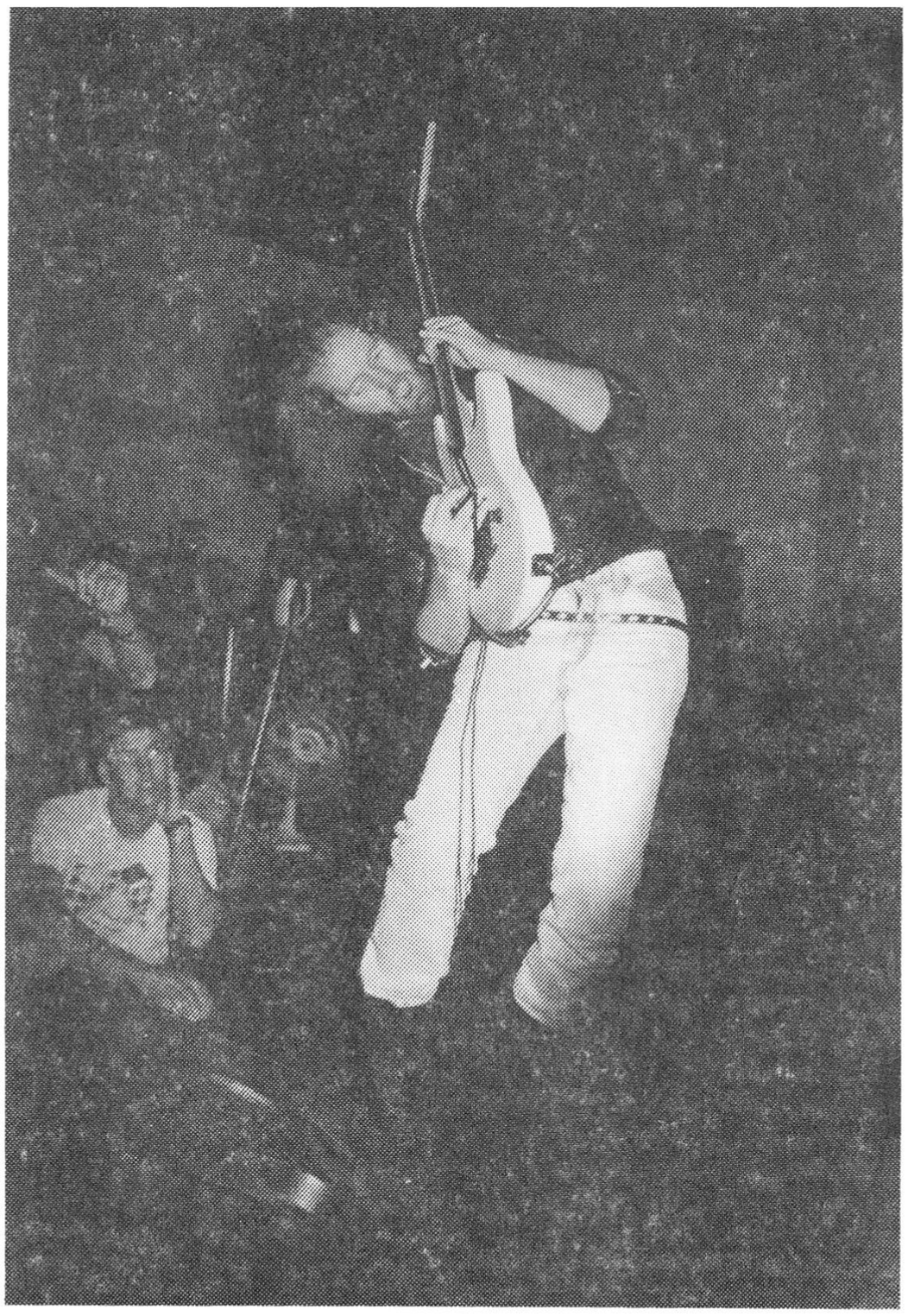


Photo: Karen Loke ©

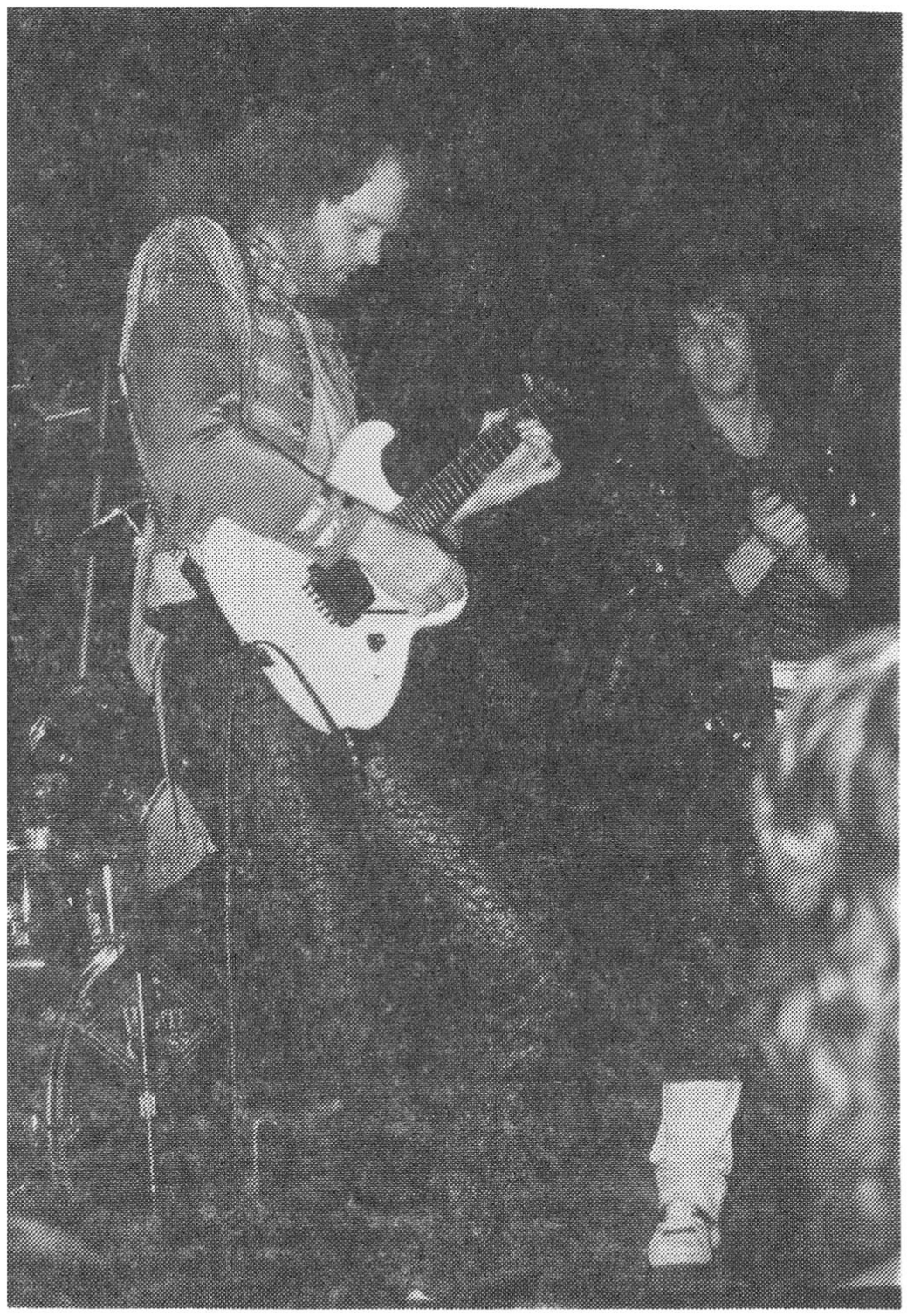


Photo: Curtis Tarpley

Despite the intensity with which Whitecross pursues their best, the studio time spent was not all seriousness. Rex reflected on a more light-hearted aspect of the recording. "The best part was the 'Curly patch'. For anyone who's a Stooges fan, we had a sample floppy disc that had all the Three Stooges sounds. We midi-ed those into some of the tracks. We have some cassettes that are hilarious. (Unfortunately, unavailable to the public) That was probably the most humorous experience on the album."

Many readers will recall the backwards masking that appeared on the last album. When asked if any more masking appeared on this album as a continuation on the last, Rex replied: "There is one song on the album where we sampled Scott shouting and we did it backwards. I'll leave that to the kids to figure out where we did that. It sounds pretty cool. We edited it down to where it sounds like he's shouting forward.

"There are no intentional backwards messages on this album. Actually, we've gone a step further. So many people wrote in wanting to know what the messages meant and since the contest is over and it's basically long gone, we actually gave away what the clues were. As far as I can recall, we still didn't tell people what the message was, but we revealed what all the clues are. On the sleeve it tells what the clues are for the last album. The idea on that--for somebody that's just bought the new album and they don't have the old album--What we did is we put some backwards messages on the old album and if you figured out what all the messages were, it was kind of like a jumbo word game. First you figured out what each clue is and then you add up all the clues to figure out what the message is and that was a scripture verse."

After Rex finished discussing the music, he explained the artwork on the cover and how it relates to the band itself. "The artwork basically gets across the idea of who we are and that is definitely not an L.A. metal band. There's a lot of groups that are going for that West Coast glammed-out metal look and sound. I don't know if you've noticed, but all of the bands that are into that California metal sound have a similar production value and all their arrangements in their songs are pretty similar and they all go for that same high-pitched vocal sound. That's a very identifiable sound. I'm not saying that it's good or bad, I'm just saying that that's not where we are. We're very urbanized East Coast. Of course we're from Chicago, but there's a lot of similarities in a lot of midwestern towns like Chicago and Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. A lot of the New Jersey bands are into sort of an urbanized metal sound. We wanted to kind of put that look across on the cover."

Whitecross also has video production in the future. "We are attempting to put together a video. We're going to go to the Bethlehem Steel mill and shoot it out there. That's a good look for us.

"It's crazy. People can spend $50,000 on an album and $150,000 on the video for one song. It's ridiculous. It seems like it's getting backwards almost, like the video is more important than the album. What happens if you video the wrong song? Then it's like all that money goes down the toilet. We're looking to do it at the right price. It's tricky to put all that together and still get a professional product."

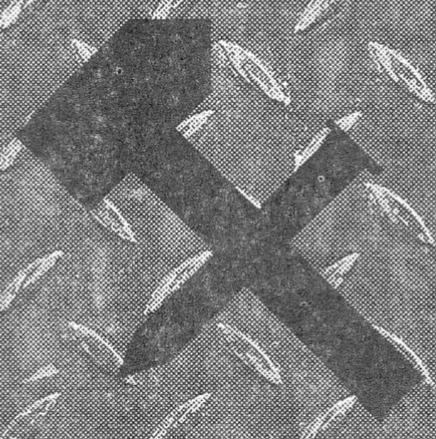
Presently, Whitecross is on the road touring. "We've got 40 concerts," Rex states. "A lot of these are gonna be double-bills too. There's a few dates that we're gonna be with Jerusalem that should be real exciting. I'm really looking forward to playing with them. They're a great band. I think there's one or two dates where we're gonna be with Barren Cross. That should be great too. There's also talk about doing a date or two with Ruscha. They're out there smokin' away too."

Rex had this simple message as a final message to Heaven's Metal readers: "Stay in the Word of God and make sure that your walk with Jesus is the most important thing in your life."

Scott caught in mid-exhortation.
Photo: Karen Loke ©

HAMMERING THE MESSAGE HOME

WHITECROSS



CATCH WHITECROSS ON THE HAMMER & NAIL TOUR '88/'89

FOR BOOKING: JIM VAN SCHAAR M.S. ASSOCIATES (303) 466-1063
MANAGEMENT: GAVIN & CONNIE MORGEL (215) 968-0713

PURE METAL RECORDS, a division of Sonic Images Corp., 740 Bethlehem Pike, Suite 110, Ambler, PA 19002 Distributed by Caroline Distribution Inc., 1461 Lewis Ave., Meredith, NH 03253

Sacred Warrior

The Secret Of Their Success

By Steve Schmutzer

Common sparrows tumble from the eaves of the large building that houses the indoor stage for Cornerstone '88. They weave their way in an erratic fashion across the placid farm lands of Northern Illinois as they desperately seek quieter residence. They have good reason to, for Sacred Warrior has taken the stage inside, and their refined metal audibly dominates the enthusiastic screams of the crowd. With unbridled flair, the vocals of Rey Parra soar over the complicated foundation of rhythms and melodies beneath. Sacred Warrior demonstrates what it is to worship at full volume!

One hour later the smoke dissapates and the rafters hum from the assault they've had. Exhausted, sweaty, and yet happy, the members and staff of Sacred Warrior lounge on the cool, green grass of the lawn outside the back of the building and reflect upon their blessings. "You know, we can do all things through Christ," Tony Velazquez, the band's drummer relates. "And, the way I figure it, why should we have second best when we can have it from the Master."

"Yeah," Rey adds, "we just need to be more like Jesus." Their point is well-taken, for the Cornerstone crowd has seen Sacred Warrior around the grounds these last couple of days, and many are impressed with the graciousness, warmth, and caring of this 5-piece attack unit. Their start was shaky though, and did not resound with promises of success at the moment of conception. Almost two years old now, Sacred Warrior's testimony as a band is evidence of God's far-reaching grace. Prior to their current name and lineup, they were a secular act called Nomad, and in this form, the embryonic stage of Sacred Warrior sought fulfillment and success for almost three years. Complete futility was Nomad's only reward and it was short-lived. Various reunions of the band were attempted after that point, but..."they were reunions in the flesh despite our Christian intents," Rey insightfully admits. "Being 'born again' was something we said we were, but we weren't living it at all."

However, Sacred Warrior was in God's plan, and God soon prevailed, resurrecting their keyboardist Rick Macias from a habit of cocaine in the process. With additional members Bruce Swift on guitar, and Steve Watkins on bass, the band fully committed their lives, ministry, and talents to the Lord. Soon afterwards Sacred Warrior played their first show through the Warehouse ministry just outside Chicago.

Musically, this band is a real endeavour to describe. From the listener's standpoint, the quality is unquestionable and completely unlike anything currently being marketed within the industry--both Christian and secular. But if a recipe were concocted called "Sacred Warrior", it would probably call for healthy doses of such sounds as Queensryche, Bloodgood, Marillion, Keaggy, and Randy Rhoads...at least according to the band itself. Currently, "The Rock", a secular publication, has added their opinion of "...a bit like Slayer..." to some of the influences/ sounds already listed, "But that doesn't really describe us at all," states Ben Parra, Sacred Warrior's merchandising manager, "Slayer is just not us at all." Slayer or not, "The Rock" is quick to compliment the music of Sacred Warrior...and rightly so. Their just-released album "Rebellion" is definitely an album-of-the-year contender, and its innovativeness and sheer quality should make its label Graceland/ Intense very happy. Signed to Intense Dec. 10, 1987, it is interesting to note that Sacred Warrior never actively sought a record company deal, but the events of their Intense Records contract simply reaffirms God's leading.

Sacred Warrior is a happenin' band! Not only are they blessed with a first-rate album, but they recently were confirmed as the opening act for Rez Band's large and much-awaited nationwide tour beginning in January of next year. As a result of this wonderful opportunity, the band is currently getting together the usual assortment of posters, brand new t-shirts, and other marketable items that are sure to sell like "ice cream in the Sahara" when these warriors hit the stage. (Write to them at: Sacred Warrior, PO Box 88773, Carol Stream IL 60188 for all the info you may be eagerly awaiting by now.)

With all the encouraging things Sacred Warrior is experiencing, and with all their heady opportunities in front of them, one may wonder momentarily of the more internal processes of the band. "We're reminded every day of our call to follow Christ," Steve admits. "He's really become our cloud by day and our fire by night." Despite such leading, Sacred Warrior never doubts their incredible need for prayer, and they actively encourage such for them. Citing specific needs such as protection from the very real attacks by Satan, getting along with one another (hey--they're human!), their families, and a business-minded attitude. Sacred Warrior covets the prayers of all. Write to this band and give them your love and encouragement. Let them know you are praying for them and that you thrill to see God using them so mightily, and you will become part of "the secret to their success."

photo by Ruby Mi

Sequencers, Metal, And Trytan

Bob Hopkins catches up with Trytan, who talks about their new album, "SylenTiger".

**Have you been getting reports back on the first album? How's the press been treating you?

"The press has been really cool," says guitarist/ vocalist Lary Dean. "We've gotten a lot of help from radio stations and magazines, which has created a lot of interest all around the world. I think the response to the record has been really positive in all those media. I only wish there were more records out there to go around. But, our label's done all that they could and we're confident that the second one is gonna go much farther."

**How's your relationship going with R.E.X.? Is it looking positive for another release on that label?

"Yes," says Lary, "we definitely feel so. We've really prayed about it. We've prolonged the release of the second record long enough; and it seems that the fastest way to get another release out is to go with R.E.X.. We hope that the changes and adjustments that not only their organization has made, but our organization as well, is gonna give the second project that much more to go on."

**Speaking of the second project, are there any different approaches that maybe you guys are dealin' with? Who's doing the majority of the writing and the music?

"Nothing's really changed," says bassist Steve Robinson, "except for that fact that I didn't write a lot on the first album because I had just joined. Lary and I write most of the music. Lary writes a majority of the lyrics, and Scotty has a few here and there."

"As far as anything that's really changed," adds Lary, "you'll hear a lot more keyboard-oriented stuff on the second album. We've incorporated a computer bass sequencer...some big dollar keyboards for some big sounds. The sequencer is triggered by Scotty's bass drum, but he has to keep up with the computer. It's very dangerous, even in a live situation. It takes a lot longer to learn these songs."

**So when it comes to writing, you guys are all getting involved.

"Oh yeah," the band answers. "In one aspect or another everyone gets into it," says drummer Scotty Blackman. "I've seen more interaction between Lary and Steve than I ever saw between Lary and John, our old bass player, simply because the material is so complex

now. There's so much layering going on now that it requires two heads to put it all together."

"There's only a couple of formulas that we work with Steve and I," says Lary. "I'll come up with a foundation musically and I'll take it to Steve and him and I will take it farther and, when we get it to that point, then we lay it out to Scotty and he starts. He adds a lot. There's a process that goes on with the songs. When Scotty has an idea musically, then him and Steve get together or him and I get together and we take it through those phases. Like what Steve was saying with the computer stuff, the music is more ferocious now than it ever was, but it's more complex technically than it ever was. To go in both those areas is a real nice accomplishment for us, and with Tom Cook's help and everything that he's done working with Steve...I look at that stuff and I just say, 'I'm glad those guys know what they're doing.'"

"We have to mention that Tom Cook is our keyboard technician and main computer man," says Steve. "The digital man."

"The invisible fourth member of the band," says Lary.

**As the plans for recording the new album come into view, I imagine you already have a name for the album, which has been changed a few times.

"Once!" says Lary. "It's been changed once! It's gonna be called 'SylenTiger'."

**Is there a reason for that name?

"I think the band," explains Lary, "in the past year has gone through more spiritual warfare than ever before in our lives and we're seeing other people stand and fall like never before in ways we never thought possible. We see that it's so important for Christians right now to stop flapping our gums and get down to really living the life of Christ and letting our actions speak. The Lord exhorts us in 1 John about 'in word and deed.' It's gotta be in action, not just word. We think that the SylenTiger is Jesus, like the Lion-Lamb, another way that we identify with Christ is the SylenTiger. He could have brought down 12 legions of angels as he stood before the procurator. But He was silent. His power was in His submission to the Father's will. We aren't trying to talk or argue anyone into the Kingdom of God. We're just gonna present the facts and love one another through thick and thin, and love people and hope that that presents a witness that will attract people to God, rather than turn them off. You turn on the tv and you see these guys screaming and yelling and trying to preach people into the Kingdom of God. I just see more people from our generation turning their backs cold on that. I think that we will draw more people into the Kingdom of God like Stryper, Bloodgood, Barren Cross and these types of ministries have."

**As for the new music that's gonna be on the album, any topics that you'd like to comment on?

"We wrote one called 'Beyond The Night'," says Steve, "that deals with a friend of ours that we feel had committed suicide. Lary and I knew this guy really well. He was in an auto accident and, just from knowing his situation, we feel that he took his life rather than it being accidental. We've kind of addressed that. Lary's written one called 'Waking The Giant'. Why don't you elaborate on that, Lary?"

"'Waking The Giant' is something we feel very strongly about, because we're all pretty much patriots through and through. We really love our country and we feel that God's really blessed America incredibly. We feel there's two sides to the waking of the giant. It's kind of that phrase from a quote by one of the Japenese generals of World War II. After they bombed Pearl Harbor, the Japanese commander was quoted as saying, 'We have awakened the sleeping giant!' What he was referring to was that Americans, once they wake up, are the fiercest enemy you can go against--but there is that matter of getting them awake. We feel that there's so much going on in this nation right in our own towns; with abortion clinics and drug abuse and the oppression that goes on and a lot of things that are just wrong. This country was founded on Christian principles.

"It's important for Christians to really live the life of Christ."

It's fading. It's like when Moses came down from the mountain, the glory was fading because it was only a temporary thing. We need to revive that principle of doing things God's way and putting our foot down on things that just aren't right: from people dying in the street from crack overdoses; from professional athletes dying from cocaine overdoses; to the nameless; to abortion; on and on it goes. That's why we're trying to wake people up."

The band should be hitting the studio to record this new album in February or March.

**Will you be touring up until that time?

"We're just gonna do a lot of isolated stuff locally and have considered doing a few small road trips," says Lary. "We're leaving that up to the Lord, whether or not he's gonna open up those doors. Right now, it doesn't look like it. We may try to get out to New York and do some of the clubs there and some in Detroit and Ohio. Right now, we're just trying to focus on finishing the material and getting the tour set after the album is done. We want to get out and promote a decent tour, not just isolated dates in clubs and stuff."

**Any parting comments or prayer requests for the readers of Heaven's Metal?

"I would just like to ask the people out there who like our stuff and would like to see the band someday," says Scotty, "that they would pray and ask the Lord to open the doors...and the adverse things that we have been facing, that the walls would be knocked down. That we could get this thing rolling before time has a chance to take its toll and make everybody forget who we even are. I would also like to ask them to pray that this whole country would wake up. That the Lord would snap the people out of this trance."

"I want to thank all the Trytan fans," says Lary. "We have gotten some of the neatest letters, man. We've gotten encouragement from all around the world--even behind the Iron Curtain. It really blesses us, because, like Scotty said, it seems like there were barriers up for us. I know it is all a matter of God's timing and so forth. We have gotten a ton of encouragement and we thank everyone that bought our record. We're sorry we couldn't tour and get around to the cities and play live and be there in that capacity. It's not like we weren't trying, we just weren't able to. It takes a lot of money to do that. It takes a lot of things to click in. Lord willing, on the second one everything will click and we'll get off and running on a tour. So hang in there, we're on our way."

"I think about the only thing I can say," says Steve, "is just keep praying for us. We really need it. And just serve the Lord your God."

REZ cont'd

Now that Rez has its own label, will they be producing other bands? "It's certainly in the back of our minds, but one thing we don't want to do is sign an artist and not really do our best. We would rather point them to a different label than make a commitment that we can't fulfill financially or in terms of promoting," Kaiser said. So the prospects are uncertain.

One thing is certain and that's Rez is through being silent. "I think the band seemed in some people's minds to be silent for a couple of years. It's been like, 'Where have you been?' Well, silence is screaming, you know, and it's screaming loud. That's what Rez is about, we can't be silent for very long."

Running Into Trouble

By Bob Hopkins

Heaven's Metal's Midwestern rep, Bob Hopkins, talked with Trouble's guitarist, Bruce Franklin (who was recently born-again), drummer Barry Sturn, and bassist Brad Holster.

**You guys have been around for quite awhile. How'd you come together?

"Rick had a band together called Trouble," says Bruce, and he was looking for a singer and another guitar player. Eric and I are both from Aurora, so we answered an ad in the music paper and went and auditioned and things clicked and we joined. That was in 1979. We were doing copy tunes and some originals. We got a record deal four years later in '83 on Metal Blade Records."

**You've had a few personnel changes. How did you two guys come into the band?

"I started working for 'em right after they released the first album," says Brad. "I was the bass roadie for the first album. I started roading for Bruce and Shawn. When they went on the road I was with 'em. I just sorta worked my way in, I guess."

"I originally met these guys going to Trouble shows when I was in my own band," says Barry, "which was called Etrop. It was a speed metal thing. I originally met Jeff Olson, the original drummer (The one who got saved and decided to leave the band.). We were friends and worked together downtown. One day I was talking to Shawn and I said, 'Hey! I hear Oly quit.' It happened to be true. I filled in for some gigs, like a couple Motorhead shows, and went back to Etrop." After a drummer named Dennis filled in, Barry took the "Trouble seat" as drummer.

The first album has a quote from Psalm 9 on the back and "The Skull" has a verse from Ephesians on it.

**Eric writes the lyrics for the band. Where does the inspiration for that come? Does he believe in God? Do all you guys believe in God? It seems like there's a message that's being conveyed through your music. A lot of times Trouble is being set up as being a Christian band. How do you guys all feel about that?

"It's a controversial thing at the moment," says Brad, "when you play a show with someone like Slayer."

"We're definitely not a ministry band," says Bruce. "We never claim to be that. Eric has written a lot of Christian-oriented lyrics. If you talk to him, he considers himself a Christian, which, I mean, you could debate."

"The first album, which has religious overtones in it," says Brad, "was released on white vinyl. Right away it got the 'white metal' name. This was before Stryper. Then Stryper kicked in and kind of a wave of Christian metal bands came in. Trouble got thrown in there, cause they didn't know how to label the band. They didn't know how to market it. They just left it to however people would see it. The articles written labeled the band as a Christian band."

"There were ads for the European release of 'The Skull'," says Barry. "Slayer was also on Metal Blade. It would say, 'Go to Hell with Slayer,' and then, 'Go to Heaven with Trouble,' on the bottom. Naturally, from seeing that, people perceived that, 'Okay: (there's) black metal and white metal.'"

"From the beginning," says Bruce, "when it came to writing lyrics, we didn't want to write the basic, stupid lyrics that everybody does, like: party and sex. We thought those were pretty ridiculous and we wanted to say something worth saying. After all, that's basically how our lyrics came about. I'll be the first to admit, we didn't always live up to it.

"If you're gonna say something, you might as well say something worth saying."

"So many people really look up to music and really," says Brad, "it's all they do. They live for it. Why should you enter into their heads something bad? Why not give 'em something good with the same type of music...just different lyrics. We wanna give 'em a positive message. We don't wanna lead 'em the wrong way. We're not ministers, so we can't claim that we're trying to lead 'em the right way. We're just trying to do what's good and not put bad ideas into their heads."

"It hurts to think that," says Barry, "you hear stories about how, I don't know...some kid shoots a couple of people singing Metallica's 'No Remorse' and this and that. Another guy kills himself listening to Ozzy's 'Mr. Crowley'. That might not have been the artist's intention, but that's what these kids perceive of it. It just goes to show you how seriously that they take it."

**So you guys all feel responsible for your message and try to contai a message of hope?

"I think most of us do," says Brad. "I remember one letter that this one kid wrote in. On 'The Skull', there was a song about suicide with lyrics that lead you away from it. The kid wrote in that he was contemplating it and he heard this song and after that was happy and got his life together."

"The whole thing about it," Bruce continues, "is it says in the song to pray to God and God helped him away from suicide. That struck a note in this kid's head. Literally, that song made him come to the Lord and helped him turn away from suicide. His mother wrote the letter to us. He didn't write it. She was saying, 'Thank you.'"

"It's a great feeling," says Brad. "It's really cool."

**I wonder how much negative mail groups like Slayer receive. Maybe they get off on that kind of stuff.

"I used to get a lot of that with the other band," says Barry. "You know, 'Die! Hell! Kick people's faces with street metal!' All that kind of stuff. It's pretty pretentious. The kids who are saying that are 14-year old mama's boys. They know nothing about surviving."

**I know that on "Run To The Light" you kinda veered off from saying, 'God this,' or 'God that'...still providing hope and some kind of solution.

"A peace and love type of message," says Brad. "The whole reason for that is that there were people comin' down on us for the real strict Christian lyrics on the first album and saying, 'But you're not a Christian band.' So, instead of trying to confuse people like we are one, we sorta tamed the message down to peace and love...so we wouldn't feel like hypocrites. You know, like Bible-beatin' people and not the whole band was born-again Christians, ya know?"

"The death metal people didn't like us," says Brad, "cause they thought we were a Christian band and the Christian people knew that we really weren't. So, it was really gettin' a lot of people confused."

"Although a lot of the lyrics are still Christian oriented," says Bruce, "they aren't preaching, because what gives us the right to preach?"

**You just got signed away from Enigma. Did you get paid much from them? Have you received any sales stats on your albums?

"We don't have any stats on 'Run To The Light'," says Bruce, "but the first album was a little over 20,000 in the States and 'The Skull' was between 25 and 30,000 in the States. We're supposed to be getting stats on 'Run To The Light'. 'The Skull' sold as much in Europe as in the stats."

Trouble did a 40-city North American tour with professed satanist King Diamond. "He picked us personally," says Brad. "He likes our music. He didn't want a thrashed out band opening for him. He wanted a more rock and roll oriented band. The one thing he asked was if we were a ministry band, you know, if we preached from the stage or anything. If we'd have been that, I don't think he would've taken us."

**King Diamond is the only member of the band into Satanism. Did you ever talk to him about that issue?

"The band members are basically his hired staff," says Bruce. "He's nice to us. We didn't talk to him about it. It came up a couple different times with the guys in the group. They were always wondering how we were and we were always wondering how they were."

"They kinda seemed hoaky about King Diamond," says Brad. "They kinda joke about him sometimes."

"They made some of the 'Hamburglar' jokes about him," laughs Barry.

**You guys have had some other experiences with another band you're familiar with and that's Slayer. I heard that didn't go too well.

"It started out the whole crowd was chanting that they wanted Slayer," says Brad. "We came out and did our thing. They didn't give us a hard time. They sat and listened. They didn't throw nothing at us."

Barry yelled back at the audience at this show. "Sure, I got a bit condescending, but we are a heavy band," states Barry. "We are not just some bead-wearing flower children that these miserable little kids can kick in the face. That's really all I was trying to convey."

"We played with Slayer on the West coast after 'The Skull'," says Brad, "and I was going to turn their crosses over (right side up)."

Trouble's going to L.A. in November to record a new album. "This time we have lots of songs to choose from," says Barry. "We also have real money to make an album," says Bruce. "We spent about 15,000 on 'Run To The Light' and a lot of that money was wasted."

**Are you guys working on a message to go on the new album?

"The song that's sorta settin' the tone of the album is a song called 'The Misery Shows (Part 2)'," says Brad. "It's kind of about lost people finding themselves," says Bruce. "'Rest In Peace' is almost political," says Barry. "It's got a change from what Bob was saying before, where we had Bible quotes."

**A strong message?

"I think it will be along the lines of 'Run To The Light'," says Bruce, "but not that blatant or spelling it right out. It's presenting a message subtly and making people really think and find it themselves. It's a cool way of doing it. I saw Glenn Kaiser's seminar at Cornerstone this year and he said something about that. You can write Christian lyrics and it doesn't just have to be 'Oh Jesus we love You, Jesus You're Lord.' There's other ways of sayin' it that aren't so blatant."

**Another thing that goes along with that is the Bible says that no one comes to the Father unless the Spirit draws 'em. You can only do so much and leave a message of where you're at and what you believe. It's God's Spirit that will work on those individuals and changing their lives.

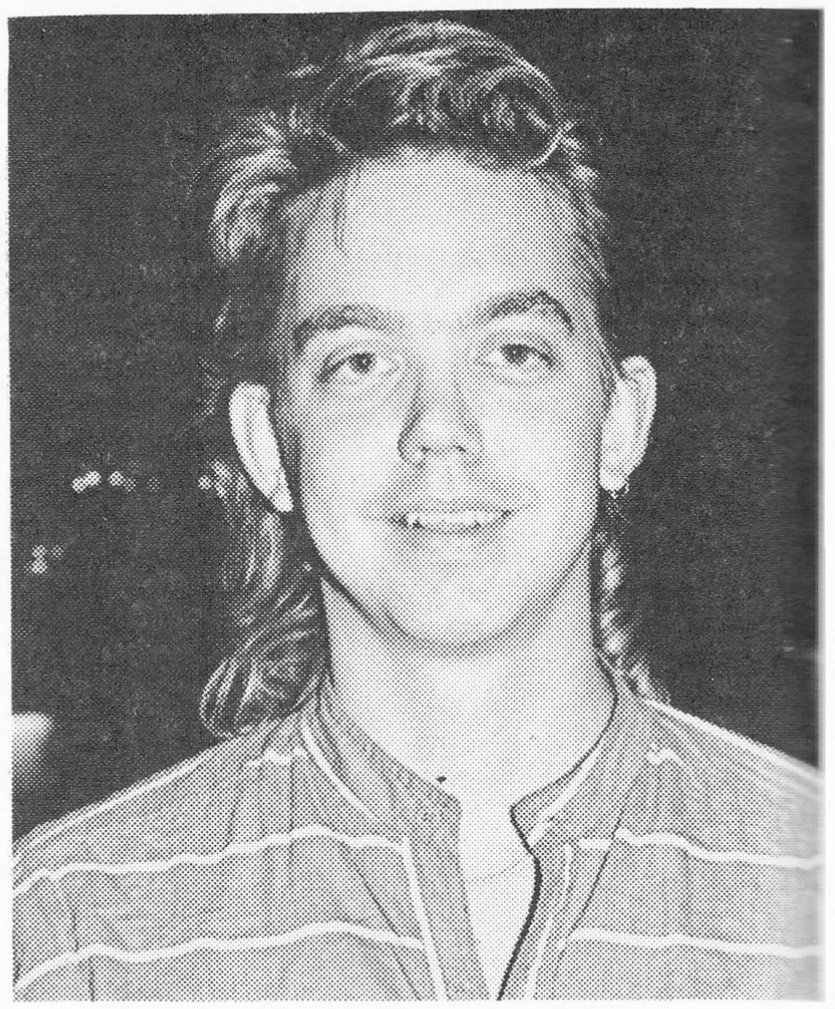
"I think the subtle aproach reaches a wider audience," says Bruce. "When it's right out, it turns 'em off."

**I challenge you guys to continue positive messages and do your best to serve the Lord, because you can really be used greatly. If somebody wants to write letters to encourage you guys, where would they write?

"Trouble Productions, PO Box 348438, Chicago IL 60634-8438."

(I think the message we should send to Trouble is: We appreciate what you're doing. You gotta realize though, that your good message of Jesus won't get you to heaven. You've got to believe it, recieve it and live it yourself. We're praying for ya. It's great to have your message out there, but, as you said, it sends a confusing message to your audience if they don't see you living it.--ed)

Caesar Kalinowski



Music Man On The Move

By Steve Schmutzer

Elbowing his meandering pathway through the bustling crowd, Caesar spots me at a small table inside the display building at the recent Cornerstone festival. Murmering well-meaning apologies for minor tardiness, he reaches out and shakes my hand as we introduce ourselves to each other. Slight of build, his shock of blond-brown hair bobbles constantly as he reins in his abundance of energy and relates his

tale of Graceland Records, his relatively recent and formidable contender within the limited circle of the Christian recording industry.

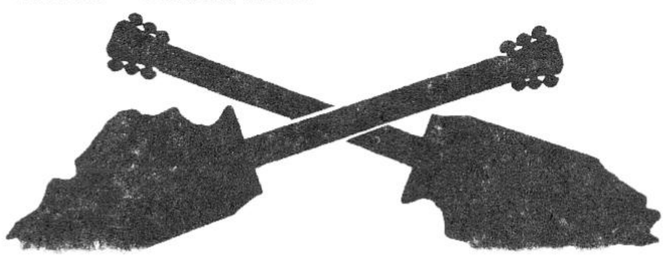
Starting officially in Sept. 1987, the Waukegan, Illinois-based Graceland emerged to avoid the fence that Caesar saw in the middle of the industry of Christian record companies. Though it seemed at first to formulate without any real intentions, it has now become as Caesar states, "...a regular label on the edge."

Both "Graceland" and "Intense" have been utilized in association with the record label as a whole. Specifying that "Intense" is like a subdivision of the more umbrella-regarded "Graceland, Inc.", Caesar adds that "Intense" is the title more often seen as the company deals with hard rock/ metal bands.

"In Graceland," Caesar states, "we're all called to be servants. As president of Graceland I am very concerned with attitude. We need to realize that as Christians we are called to evangelize; this demands an effective servant-type attitude. If you're in it for the money...well, forget it; I'm not interested." Moving on to the basics of getting a record contract, Caesar adds, "As somebody who wades through piles of demo tapes all the time, I want to stress to all new bands to send record companies only their latest and best material to date. If some band sends me a demo, but then tells me that they've got better stuff that's not down on tape yet, well, that does it; I'm not going to waste my time trying to listen to what they just sent me. Bands need to invest in a simple 4-track recording machine and just crank out demo after demo. That way their writing will improve and they'll really develop their sound. Personally, I look for a band that really trips my trigger. I don't want a sound that's really hip now; I want a band before it's hip. That way I've got some time with them, and we can really market them with good timing. You see, if you look at it like a timeline, new sounds enter in on the left, and as their style gets old, they disappear off the timeline on the right. Most Christian record companies deal with what's mainstream--or what's in the middle--but I want to stay on the left."

Caesar concludes his thoughts, "I encourage Heaven's Metal readers to really take a close look at some of the Christian metal bands that are out there; they're better than their unsaved counterparts."

Heaven's Metal readers can write to Graceland Records at PO Box 9318, Waukegan IL 60079. Call their telephone number at (312) BIG-RAGE to hear excerpts of their latest bands' material.



Very Important

For information regarding a special re-release and new material from the members of Arkangel please fill in the following information:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I'm interested in:

NEW!

_____ Arkangel _____ The Vigil _____ Material

I listen to:

_____ Rock _____ New Music _____ Everything

I buy:

_____ CD _____ Tapes _____ Records

My favorite Radio Station: _____

Age group_____under 20 _____ 20-25 _____ 25-30 _____30+

Please return this and any other comment or questions to:

CGC Company
8107 Green Devon
Houston, TX 77095

tell your friends about this too.

E & E RECORDS presents:

THE WHITE METAL INVASION!

DIVINE RIGHT

SOLDIER

FULL ARMOR

APOSTLE

Bone crunching, heart-throbbing metal, delivered as only these guys can!

DIVINE RIGHT
ARMADA
SOLDIER
EMERALD
SERAIAH
XALT
FULL ARMOR
TAKER
CHARIOT
APOSTLE
ANGELICA
SEVENTH ANGEL

To order: send $9.00 check or money order to:

MAINSTREAM PRODUCTIONS
8936 Sergeant Road
Indianapolis, IN 46256

Metal Tracks

Dieter-Dierks and RCA Records have signed **Joshua** to a world-wide record contract. Guitarist Josh Periah is supposed to be hot. Jeff Fenholt described him as a cross between Yngwie and Ritchie Blackmore. The album's called "Intense Defense" and it is killer! Bands like Bon Jovi (I'm serious), Prophet, and TNT better watch out! This album has got super polished background vocals, hooks and guitar runs galore. It's commercial metal all the way. Josh told me that he's praying that God really anoints Joshua. He hopes to really effect the world in a big, big way...kind of like how U2 might've if they would have gone all the way and boldly proclaimed Jesus when they got real popular. They were signed by Dieter-Dierks, who made the Scorpions super big, so Joshua's commercially viable sound may climb to the top of the charts. "There's a song on there called 'Don't You Know' where I talk about American Christian's tendency to follow trends." Look for a big interview with Josh in the next issue of Heaven's Metal. Meanwhile, get the album.

Testimony is finishing up a full-length, 13-song tape.

The **Metal Fest** went off pretty well, according to Bob Hopkins. Bloodgood and Sacred Warrior both put on exceptional shows.

Atkins-Muse & Associates reports that Geoff Moore and The Distance had their van with their equipment ripped off when gigging in San Francisco's Bay Area. Talk about a drag! These guys are Nashville professional musicians with quality, expensive equipment. The night of the next gig in Santa Rosa, Petra's Bob Hartman told the audience about the loss and they responded with a $2,000 love offering. Rumors that the White Throne staff stole this equipment to form their own band are totally unfounded.

K-Tel's Arrival Records has released another Christian metal compilation. It's called "Testify!" and includes: **King Of Kings** by BC; **Winners Or Losers** by Shout; **Love On The Line** by Whitecross; **Dancing On The Head Of The Serpent** by Jerusalem; **Judgment Day Blues** by Mark Farner; **Come Alive** by Ruscha; **She's Gone** by Bloodgood; **(This Is The) Right Time** by Neon Cross; **Wasn't It Love?** by Mastedon; and **I'll Never Leave You** by Gardian. It's a cassette and cd release. The only problem is that signs point to this being marketed and shelved to "Gospel" sections in major record chains.

To hear prayer requests updated weekly from the **Suffering Church** 24 hours a day, call the Open Doors Prayer Alert Line toll-free at 800-426-2411.

Is **Stryken** new age? Here's an official band response from vocalist Dale Streiker:

"In this busy world, I occasionally take the time out to ponder the when, where and why of a particular situation. Let's take time out today to think about rumors. When did they start? Where did they start? Why did they start? For instance: I have heard that Stryken is new age. My response as a Christian: stop listening to their music; don't support them in any way; and tell a friend!

"If your response was like the one above, then you jumped on the bandwagon and said, 'Let's Dog Pile!'

* It was rumored that Jesus was Satan because He could cast out demons;

* rumored that Jesus was not God;

* rumored (by Herod) that Jesus was John the Baptist come back to life;

* rumored that Jesus was leading a rebellion against the Roman Empire;

* rumored that Jesus was <u>not</u> the King of the Jews (or He could save Himself).

"Jesus gave up His rights as God so that I could have salvation. If He took His rights, He could have destroyed the world in a heartbeat and neither you nor I would exist today.

"It is rumored that Stryken is new age. Stryken does not choose to defend or condemn themselves. It does concern them though, that after 6 to 8 months of this rumor, that they have only received two letters asking if they are indeed new age. Those two letters came in the second week of June, 1988.

"You want truth--ask the Only One who knows absolute truth--ask God! Listen to "The Answer"--still aren't sure? Then, get a big stick, a couple of stones and stomp out this new age band."

Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down.

PROVERBS 26:20

NIV

X-Sinner have t-shirts available for $10 plus $1.50 shipping in s-m-l-xl. Make checks out to Daniel James Ortega, 6679 Via Riviera Way, Buena Park CA 90620.

Mike Stand, the lead singer for The Altar Boys, has released a hot solo album. The style is an 80's acoustic/ folk rock with raw passion. (How's that for a description?) He sounds like Mike Peters of The Alarm...and the music is very "Alarmish" as well. Mike has been picked up by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (M.A.D.D.) to do benefit concerts all across the country.

Shout was heard across Europe this summer...in concert halls like Countdown Cafe, London's Marquee Club...and at places like Holland's Flavo Festival...and over the airwaves on Radio Veronica, Western Europe's most popular rock program. They shared a bill with Yngwie Malmsteen over there. Shout's new album will feature studio fretwork by Joe Satriani, George Lynch and Vinnie Vincent, who are Shout's label mates on Europe's Music For The Nations. I've heard some rough cuts from this new album. They are killer. They blow away the debut album. The songs are composed better and they rock harder and with even more hooks. I think I'm an official Shout fan now. Look for a Shout interview next issue.

Check out Sanctuary's **R.A.D. Studies**! Write Sanctuary, PO Box 4130, Redondo Beach CA 90278-8330. They're good, solid teaching tapes, some of which are done by pastor Bob and Roger Martinez. You really oughta hear Roger Martinez preach. He's so real and street level.

The Gospel Music Association board met and added a few new categories to future Dove Awards, one of which was metal.

Swordbearer Magazine is officially calling it quits. "Any money which you donated to our ministry which you didn't receive issues for will be returned to you as soon as we can scrape it up." If you'd like to write a letter of encouragement, write: Swordbearer Magazine, 12596 Seminole Blvd, Suite 171, Largo FL 34648.

Martyr's "Imminent Warfare" cassette is for sale for $5 plus 75 cents postage @ Martyr, PO Box 4130, Redondo Beach CA 90278-8330.

Seraiah wrote and recorded the music for a video called "I Want To Read", which will be distributed nationally to government agencies and industries to help educate adult illiterates.

Austin's **Lust Control** has been making a few waves lately. They entered the song "The Big M" in a city-wide songwriting contest and, out of 600 entrants, received honorable mention in a side category of "Most Unusual/ Unexpected", which is exactly what the band wanted to achieve. They also received a fairly favorable review in CCM in October, which drew attention to it's being distributed by Spring Arbor. Some conservative bookstore owners and music buyers called Spring Arbor's customer service line and complained. The company decided to remove Lust Control's product from their computerized ordering system. Band members have been heard jesting to One Bad Pig that, "We're the <u>real</u> Christian banned."

A new band called **Heirborne** is getting started out in Missouri. J.J. Julian, the vocalist, reports that their style is power metal (early Dio or Motley Crue), without a bit of commercialism. For info, call (816) 987-3993 or write Justin J. Julian @ 213 S. Jeffreys, Pleasant Hill MO 64080.

Kemper Crabb, the founder and vocalist of the now-defunct (or is it?) ecclectic group Arkangel, has been actively participating in the war against abortion. He took part in the first "Operation Rescue" in Texas, where 17 people blocked the entrance to an abortion clinic. He was arrested, released and is awaiting trial on Crabb vs. Texas, which confronts Roe vs. Wade and the status of Texas as an independant republic. His case is getting national exposure among lawyers and could go to the Supreme Court, where they could choose to either disenfranchise Texas from the U.S. or repeal Roe vs. Wade!

Kemper's also been busy trying to get "The Vigil" re-released on Star Song Records as a cd and cassette release. After this he'll be working on getting Arkangel's "Warrior" album, along with a few unreleased cuts, re-released on cd. The long-awaited "Quest" album may come out if sales of "The Vigil" do well.

When told of One Bad Pig's opening for Whitecross in Houston being cancelled, Kemper said, "That's a drag. I was gonna go and throw Bibles at 'em." (Kind of a reversal of the Stryper show)

Mark Farner, who recently celebrated the birth of his son Jesse, toured as part of a "Super 70's Fest" along with Bachman Turner Overdrive, Rare Earth, The Guess Who, and Dr. Hook. Mark got to reach a large unsaved audience through this opportunity. "I never wanted to hook up with a secular production company again," says Mark. "I went through that hassle for years, but this was great. Not only did I get to minister to the crowds, I witnessed to the other groups as well. The Lord was able to use me to make a positive impact on many lives." over 250,000 people attended across America.

Sardonyx is a band from the Pennsylvania area. All five members live a total of 400 miles apart from each other! You can write them at: RD 1, Box 307D, McAlisterville PA 17049.

WAY-FM raised $300,000 in their recent Sharathon. What makes this unique is that they are one of the few Christian CHR/Rock format. "We believe that this successful Sharathon is going to encourage other stations to loosen up a little and aim for a great untouched radio group, the 15-35 age group, who are ready for a Christian format with energy and excitement. In markets where there are three to five Christian radio outlets all reaching essentially the same audience, it's time for some of these stations to get a burden for the youth." WAYJ-FM 88.7, PO Box 061275, Fort Myers, FL 33906.

Sonny Larsson attended a recent **Charizma** show. Once Goran Nikolausson saw him in the audience, he called Sonny up to the stage. Sonny obliged, singing one of his own songs, "White Knight", and some Charizma tunes. The crowd went wild!

Mick Rowe of **Tempest** broke his leg, which is slowing down the recording of their new album. Pure Metal signed Australian band **Lightforce.**

Look out for **7th Seal**, the first all-black metal band. They're from L.A. and supposed to be pretty hot...

Scarlet Red has recently signed to Pure Metal Records. This Nashville-based glam metal band has a female lead singer and a very hard edge guitar-wise Tentative debut album title is "Don't Dance With Danger" (Maybe a rebuke to Leslie Phillips!?).

SCARLET RED

Concert Reviews

The Best White Metal Show Ever!

By Daniel Nordstrom

Just to see Leviticus or Bloodgood alone is probably one of the best White Metal experience you can have. Imagine a show with these two bands together and the experience is AWESOME!

Leviticus and Bloodgood are right now on tour in Europe and I saw them in Sundsvall, Sweden, and I was blessed and blown away! The show was great. This was probably the best white metal show ever!

I had never seen Bloodgood live before. I had just played their records all day and all night long...and on and on and on. I had really looked forward to seeing them live and when I had the chance, I wasn't disappointed. I think Bloodgood is the best white metal band in the world right now. This stunning four-piece band has everything!

The songs are great. The music is brilliant and the lyrics are beautiful and powerful. The message Bloodgood proclaims is wonderful and the way they perfrom it is great. To see Bloodgood live is like a theater or cinema. Something is happening all the time. Les Carlsen on vocals, David Zaffiro on guitars, Michael Bloodgood on bass, and Mark Welling on drums are wild on stage. When they play the song "Crucify", Les is acting both the parts of Pilate and Jesus Christ. My heart is filled both with joy and sorrow. Joy over the great thing that Jesus did for me when He died and rose for my sins; but I also feel sorrow over the suffering servant, Jesus, when the soldiers beat Him. Jesus was probably the most lonely person in the world.

Bloodgood rocks in front of a wild audience in Stockholm, Sweden, during their great European tour with Leviticus.
Photo: Hanno Viita

When Bloodgood plays "Messiah", the almost classic white metal song, after "Crucify", I feel free and I just praise God. "Messiah" is breaking all the chains.

Bloodgood's show was great, that's the only thing I can say. I'm excited and I was so high on God during the show that I cried tears of joy.

After Bloodgood, who is the opening act during this European tour (at least the Swedish dates), comes Leviticus. They are also good, as usual. Bjorn Stigsson is a great guitar hero. Peo Pettersson, the new vocalist, is doing his job great. It's not easy to take over from Sonny Larsson. The new bassist, Niklas Franklin, is also good. The best thing in this show, musically, is Kjell Andersson's drum solo. I have heard many of his solos,but this one was the best I've ever heard. Kjell has developed a lot and now is in the elite of metal drummers, both Christian and secular.

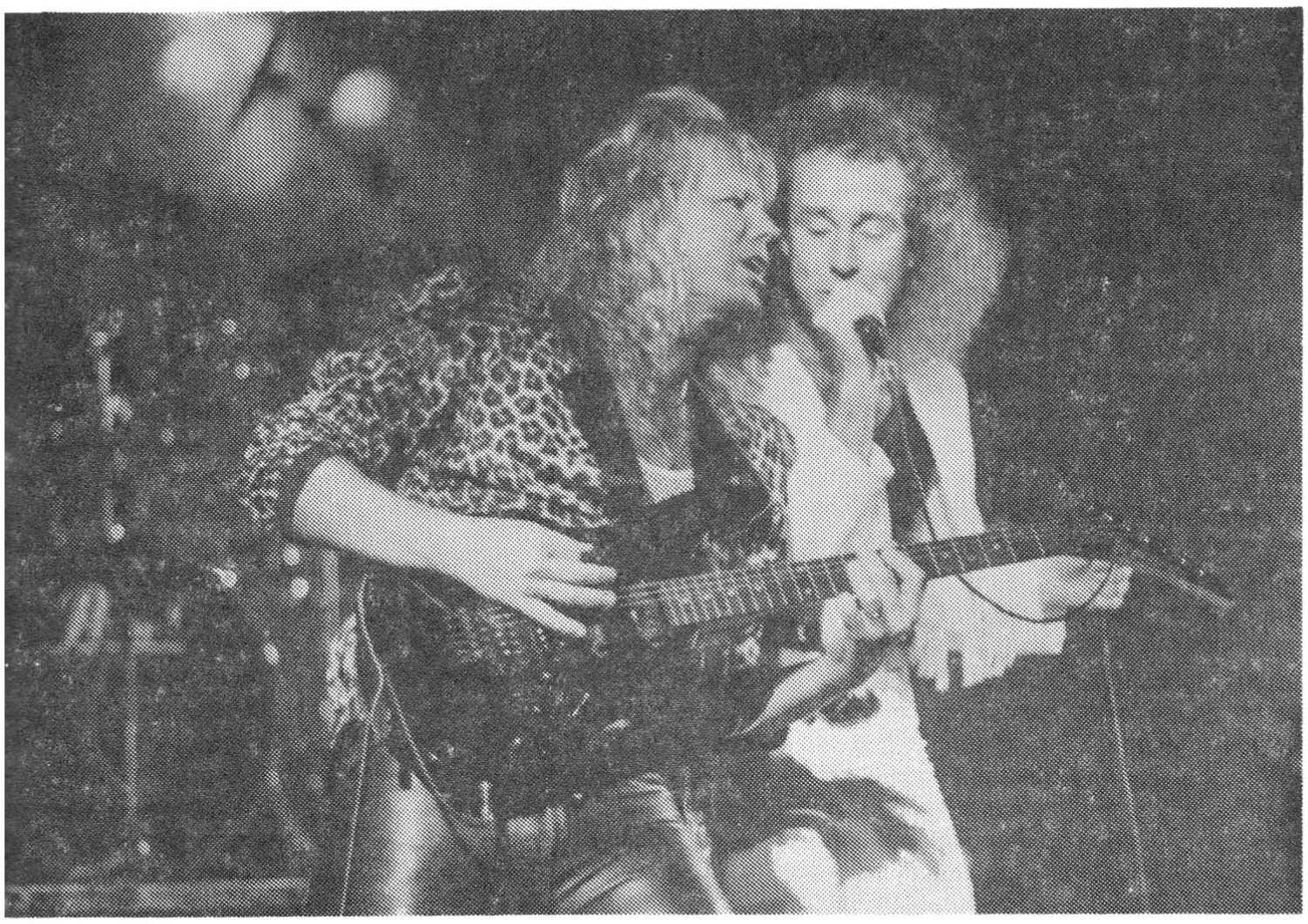
Leviticus played a few new songs, but most of the material came from "Setting Fire To The Earth" and Bjorn's solo album, "Together With Friends".

Peo Pettersson, earlier the lead singer of AXIA and Leviticus' producer, fits in well with Leviticus' style of metal.

"It feels great to be out on the road with Bloodgood," says Bjorn. "It has been a tough time for us when Sonny Larsson left the band, but now it feels like the Lord is with us."

Oh yes, Bjorn, you are right! The Lord is really with you and the others in Leviticus and Bloodgood during this fantastic white metal tour. Bloodgood have had good reviews in the magazines lately. The great magazine Kerrang! gave them four K's (out of 5) for "Rock In A Hard Place".

Praise God for this tour in Europe that has given a lot of people a personal faith in Christ Jesus!!



Bjorn Stigsson and Peo Pettersson are the new front duo for Leviticus. They praise God with their hot melodic metal. Photo: Hanno Viita

Cornerstone '88

Cornerstone, a four-day festival catering to Christian rock's outer fringe, features concerts, seminars, concerts, camping, and more concerts. It's definitely a rad rocker's paradise. For instance, for four solid days you're surrounded by 20,000 people who all feel the same about Christian rock as you do. Besides that, you've got over 40 bands playing and an exhibition hall with all sorts of hard-to-find music available for purchase. You've got anti-abortion displays, hippies, punks, metal heads, new-wavers, skaters,

This is not the Divine Ryte that was just signed to Geffen Records. They are, according to Matt Hurich, a Christian band.

Divine Right posing at Cornerstone
Photo by Dan Stawski

Christians who've suffered in Communist countries for their faith, preppies, jocks, Canadians, whites, blacks, Mexicans, Indians, Chinese, Swedes, yuppies, newspaper reporters, and Celtic musicians. It was a beautiful smorgasbord of God's people--the body of Christ. The night before the fest officially started was an opening ceremony with JPUSA's choir. Watching this choir made me weep. Here were blacks, white, hippies, people with chains, and people with mohawks...all singing and worshipping God together.

Day one of the fest featured: **Divine Right**, as part of the "talent search" contest sponsored by Graceland and Cornerstone; **Rez**; and **Sacred Warrior.** It was a pleasure to see Divine Right play. Besides all the equipment failures, you could see Kevin Brandow's talent shining through. Rez played a very bluesy set with some of their new material from "Silence Screams". Sacred Warrior ended day one with a very hot set. This new band proved their status as a first-class metal band. Rey Parra's vocals were hitting killer high notes all night...and so was Bruce Swift's guitar. Each band member had a glow on their face and a humble and loving look in their eyes. For an encore they played a beautifully melodic metal version of "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (God Of Power And Might)". Real worship took place as God's Holy Spirit made His presence known. The band played this song with just the rear spotlights over that band and finished accapella. There was total silence in the crowd for 5-10 seconds after it was over. It was powerful! Hopefully this is something we'll see at more and more Christian metal concerts--full on worship.

Day two started off with some radical punk thrash. **The Crucified** and **The Lead** played to a very packed and appreciative audience, who showed theirr approval by moshing and stage diving. It was funny to try and recognize some of the stage-divers, like JPUSA sidestage manager, Dick Randall.

Charizma was supposed to play this day, but missed their trans-Atlantic flight and cancelled. Rick Cua warmed up the mainstage before **The Choir** came and performed an hour's worth of their original, passionate and ecclectic music. **Mylon and Broken Heart** followed with a predictable yet enjoyable set with some good preaching. The encore concert this evening presented a choice: either see **Da** and their totally original art-rock concert, or rock out with Florida's **Apostle.** Of course I chose Apostle...and boy was I blessed. Apostle's awesome stage, complete with ramps, bright lights and a high riser over the drumset, looked ominous. There was a long prelude followed by Matt Harding jamming away. Matt reminded me a lot of Michael Schenker, with his flying-V and backwards running and Samuri-smile. Matt boldly proclaimed the love of God with simplicity and vigor whenever the band paused between songs. "God is head over heals in love with you," he'd say.

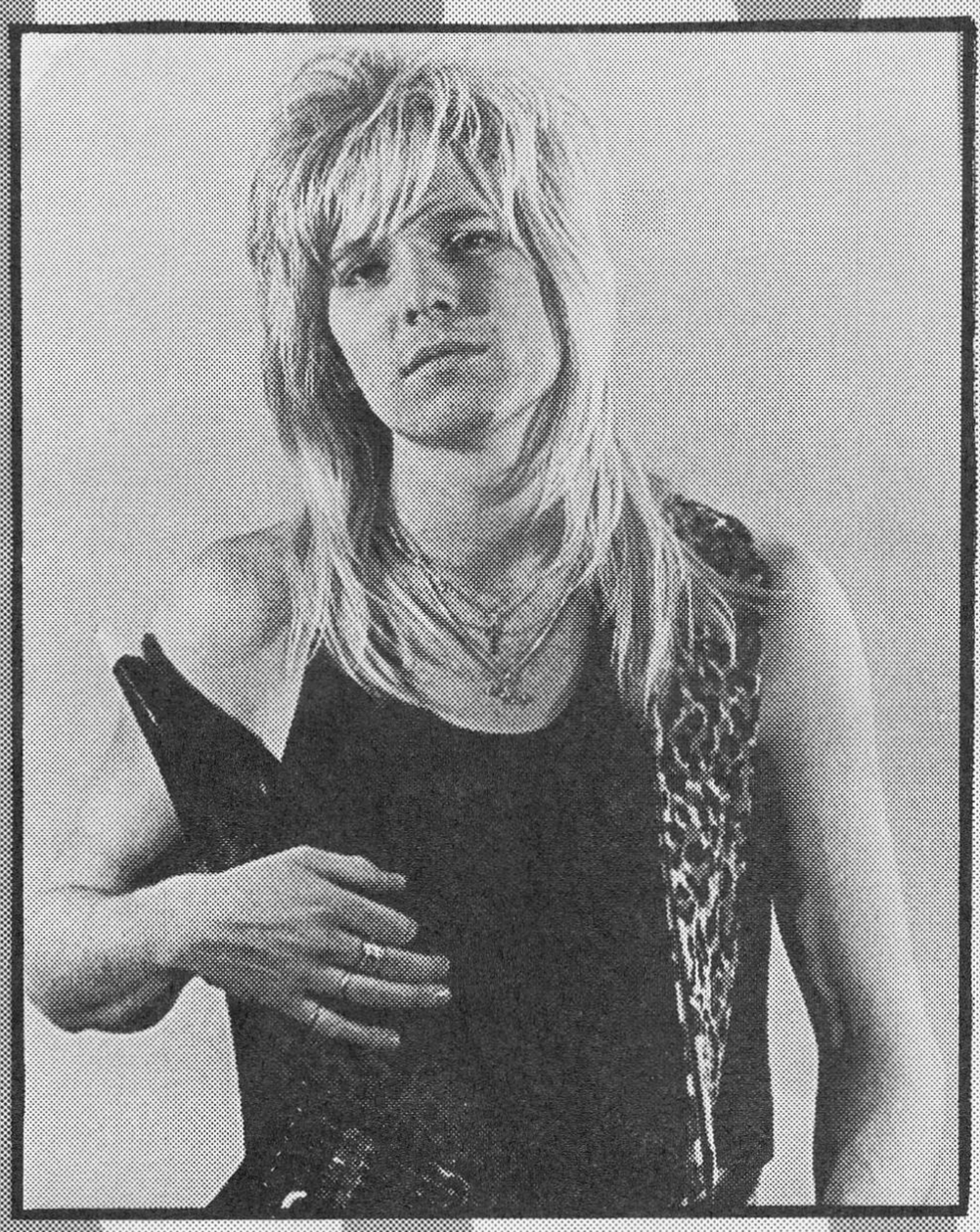
This band has a future. Matt's guitar playing is just too good to go unnoticed long.

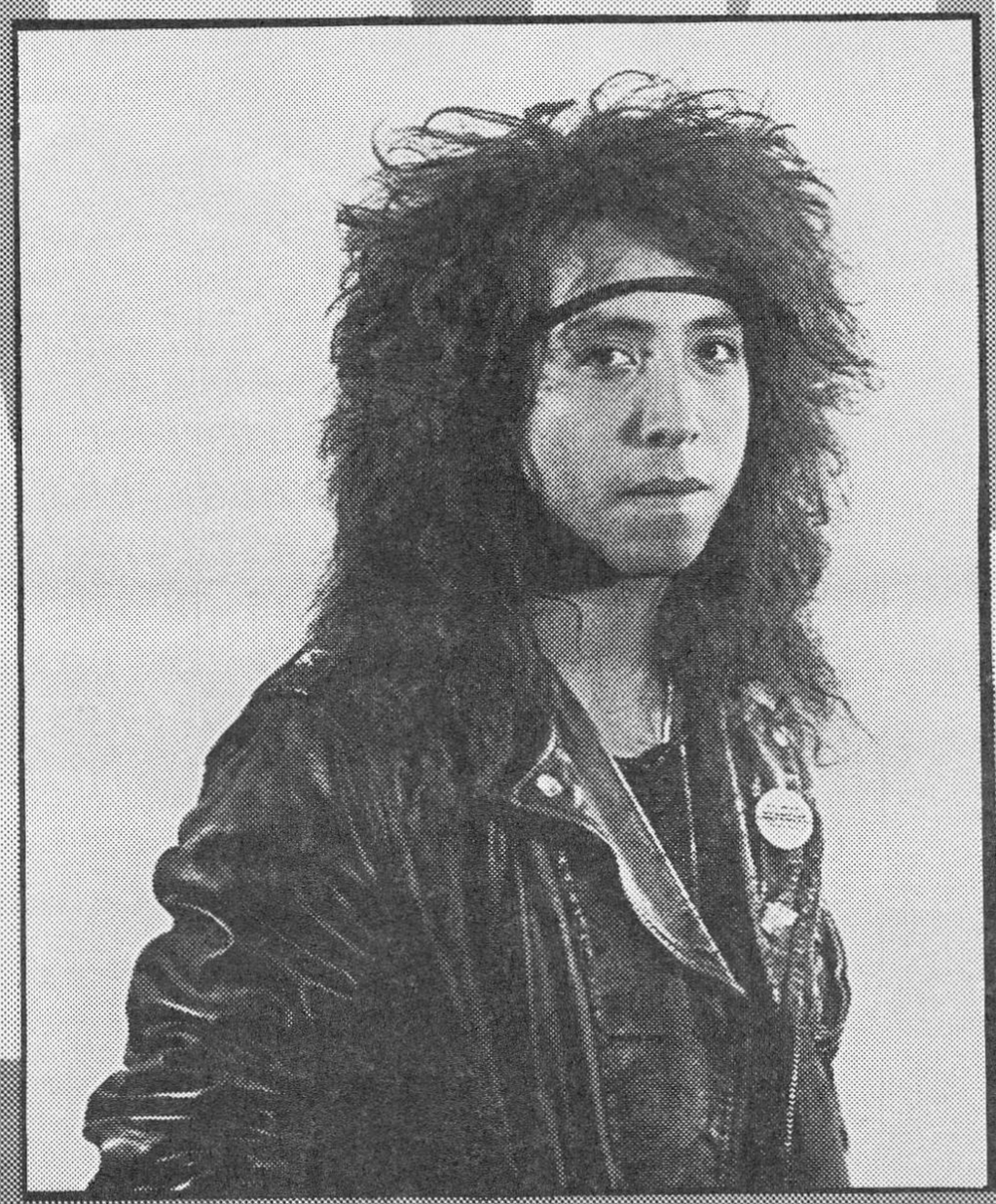
The Level Heads couldn't make their opening slot on day three, so **Sacred Warrior** stepped in for another killer set. Leviticus' guitarist, Bjorn Stigsson, shortly after Sacred Warrior finished with their "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord" encore, said, "They are the best Christian metal band I've ever seen."

Apostle's Matt Harding
Photo by Karen Loke ©

AS ADVERTISED IN CCM, HARVEST ROCK SYNDICATE, WHITE THRONE, AND HEAVENS METAL.

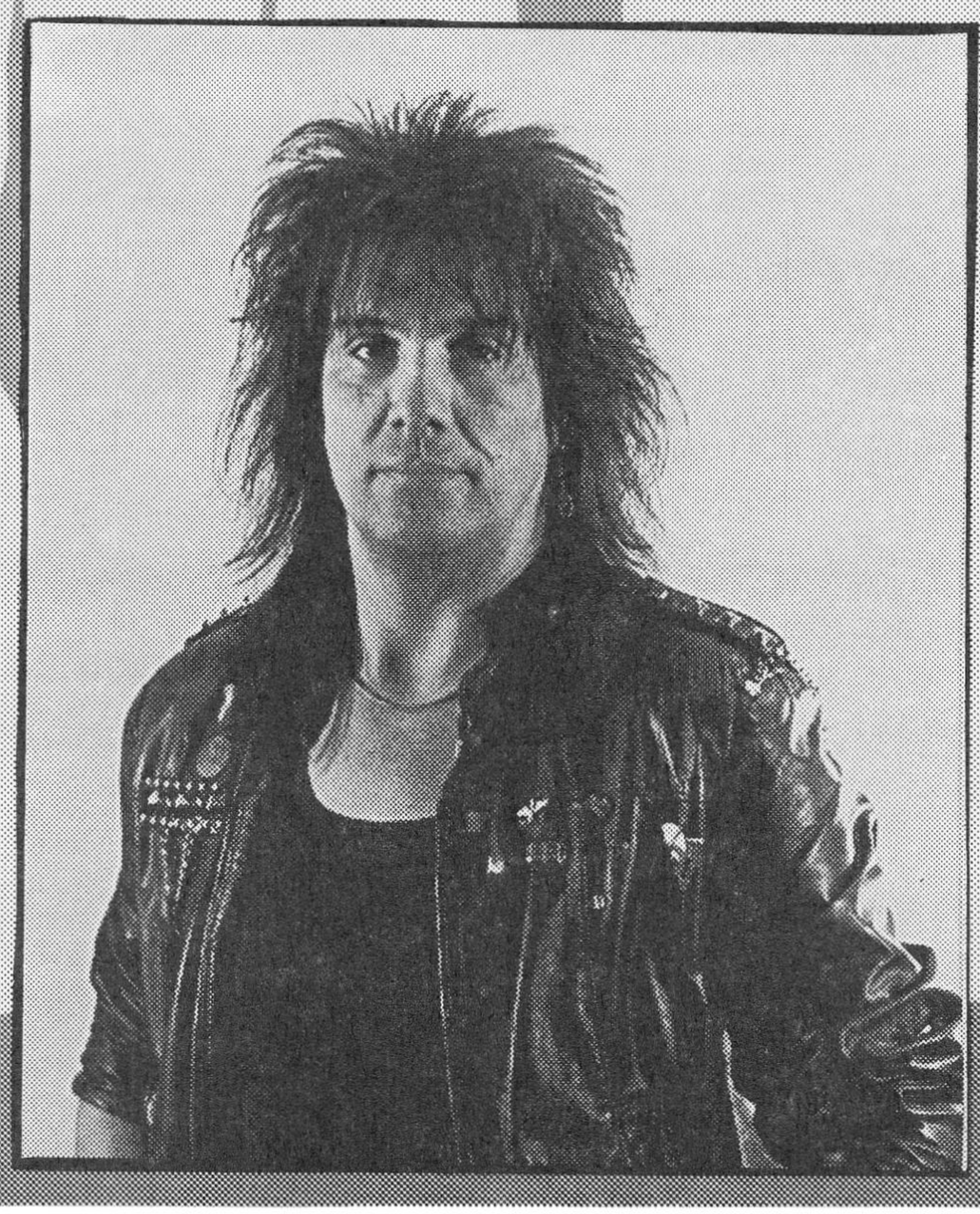
SACRED





INTENSE
Records

WARRIOR



Professional Guitar Lessons

by Josh Kramer

SAINT

Applied Fingerboard Theory

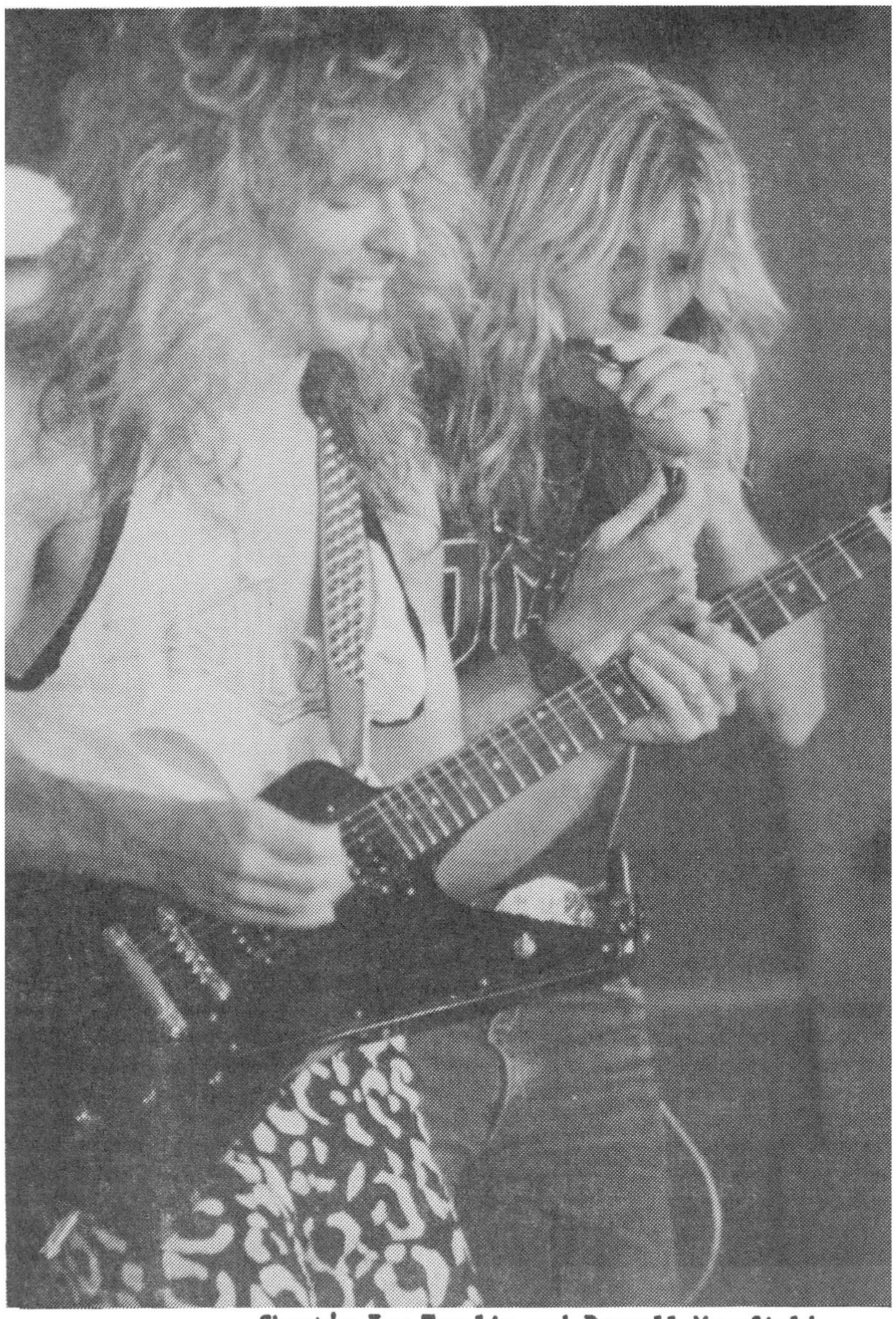
Beginning Through Advanced

Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope enclosed in your letter and I will send you a questionnaire for you to fill out telling me what your abilities are.

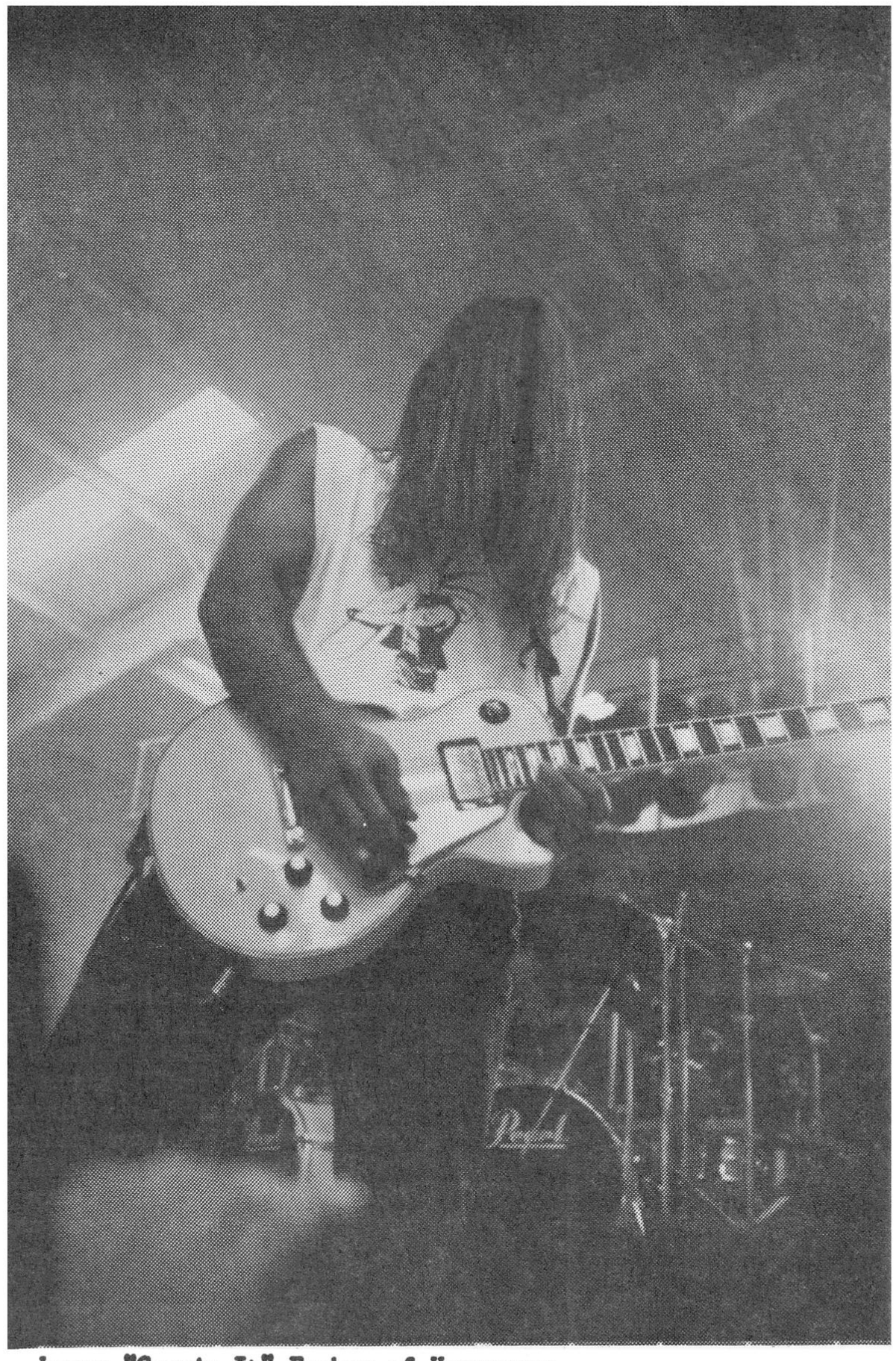
All I want to know is what you want to learn on the guitar or bass.

PLEASE no Saint questions. This is a lesson-taped series, personalized especially for you.

Send a S.A.S.E. to Josh Kramer c/o Sanctuary
P.O. Box 4130
Redondo Beach, CA 90278-8330



Shout's Ken Tamplin and Darrell Mansfield
Photo by Karen Loke



Larry "Cousin It" Farkas of Vengeance
Photo by Dan Stawski

Shout fulfilled everyone's expectations (I think), with a loud, energetic set. Ken Tamplin played off the crowd well. He showed his skill at guitar by battling Chuck King with a few guitar runs and shared the stage with Darrell Mansfield.

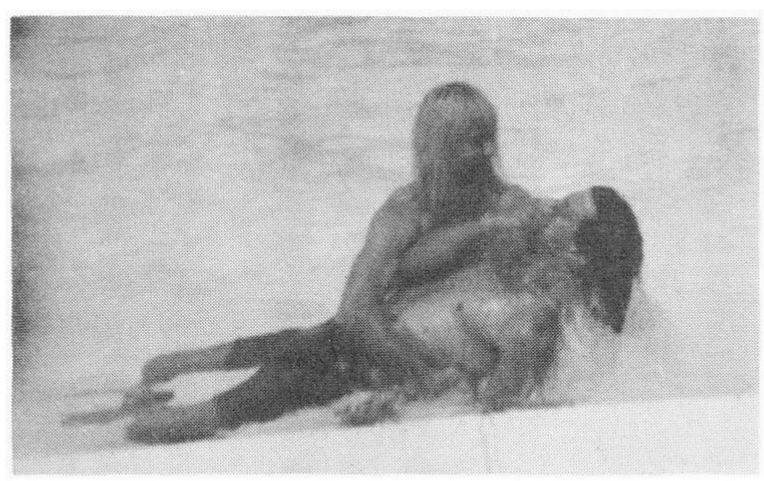
Dave Perkins put on a hot straight-ahead rock and roll set that evening on the mainstage. **Petra** made their debut appearance at Cornerstone, with a candy-coated rock set. John Schlitt sure can sing good though! **Charlie Peacock** ended the night with an unforgettable show that was truly a moment where artist and audience merged, leaving part of himself with the audience. The audience responded enthusiastically the whole set...and wouldn't stop dancing and singing the chorus "Whole lot different/ Whole lot the same,"...even twenty minutes after the set was over and all the lights were on and 70% of the audience already had gone.

Day four was heavy metal Sunday. **Vengeance** made their much-anticipated debut outside California to a packed house. Guitarist Larry Farkas musically started the concert by screaming like a madman at the audience. Hair was flying everywhere as the band delivered their thrash at 200 miles an hour. **Whitecross** had the unique priviledge of following a Vengeance set. They performed a tight set, which included **Take It To The Limit** from "Hammer And Nail" and an electric guitar version of the ballad "You're Mine". Rex Carroll finally received his Guiitar Hero 1987 trophy during this set.

Idle Cure kicked off the mainstage with a polished set of power chords and huge background vocals. The reason the BGV's were so big was the presence of the ever-controversial tape machine. It was obvious that they were using tapes at times because of the incredible increase in volume of the vocals during the choruses of some of the songs.

No heavy metal Sunday would be complete without **Bloodgood**, who brought out their medievel set complete with Roman pillars. Of course the band utilized the set to its fullest, with Les praying at the top of the stairs during "Awake" and the exciting acting out of "Demon On The Run", "Heartbeat Of The City", and "Crucify".

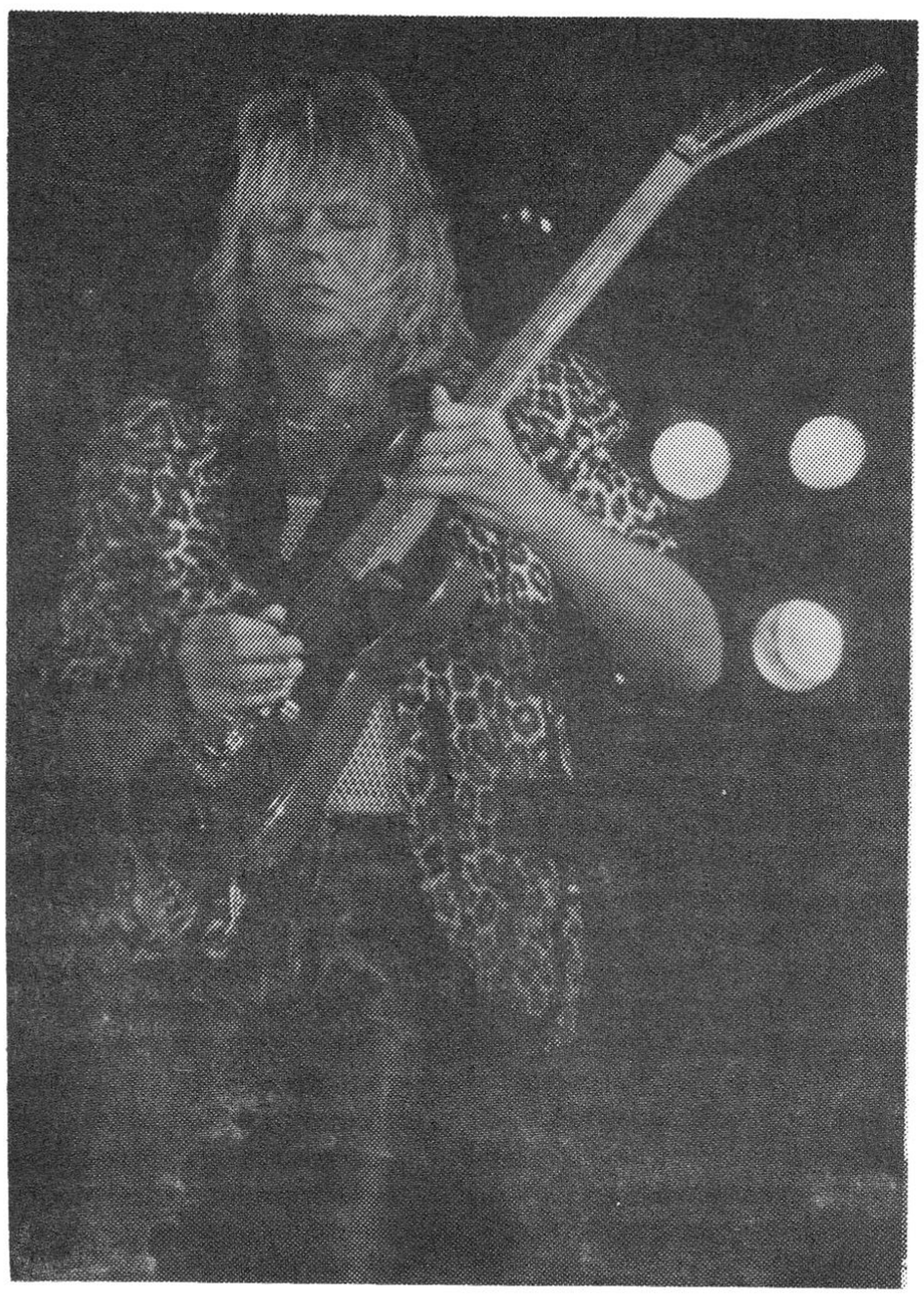
Darrell Mansfield, who is now almost as much a Cornerstone tradition as Rez, closed the festival with a a rockin' funtime set. Standout songs were the worshipful anthem "He Has Overcome" and "That's Alright", where Darrell portrays an experience he had in school when a teacher named "Mrs. Wilbur" taught evolution. Darrell dons monkey mask to pose the question, "Is your Grandpa a monkey?" Cornerstone '88 ended that night at about 1:30 or 2 in the morning, leaving a sad feeling that one of the funnest times of the year **was drawing to a close.**



Les Carlsen baptising a guy who got saved during Bloodgood's Cornerstone '87 set.

Leviticus Goes Fishin' In America's Heartland

Leviticus in the USA
Photo by Karen Loke ©



Bjorn rippin' it up
Photo by Karen Loke ©

The Heartland Music Festival brought together Leviticus and Larry Norman at Omaha's Camp Kitaki over Labor Day Weekend. The Camp Kitaki crew ran a very efficient event, complete with light, sound, concessions, rehearsal time, food, chapel talks, and horseback riding.

Besides the two headliners, five local artists performed: Jo Kerns; Gina Fahleson; Inside Out; Highest Calling; and Ottobootzman.

Before the festival started however, the real news happened: Leviticus played their first U.S. concert in a biker bar called "Fat Jacks". 50 minutes and 50 miles later, they played in Lincoln, Nebraska's biggest college club, The Royal Grove. Before the weekend started, Leviiticus expressed their desire to "go fishing in deep waters" (for souls). That they did this Friday night. They took the gospel exactly where it was needed: to hurting, lonely and sinful people in a bar. The placed was so packed that an escort van drove you from your car, which was parked two blocks away, to the front door.

Leviticus came out and rocked the place. What was amazing is that people flooded the dance floor after the second song. This wouldn't be so surprising if this was music they had heard before and was a dance-style. This was hard-driving Christian heavy metal from Sweden! I was praising God!

One girl, who was a stripper at the club, was changed. She was talking to Larry Norman and one of the promoters. She was giving her boyfriend the cold shoulder as she listened intently on what these guys and Leviticus had to say and was crying. She was raised as a Jehovah's Witness and had a very hard heart. She went to the festival the next day and asked more questions about Jesus. Saturday night Leviticus put on a wonderful show on the festival's outdoor stage. From the first strains of "Flames Of Fire" to the closing number, I was carried into the presence of God in worship. I kind of felt like I was enjoying the concert for all the Heaven's Metal readers as well as myself. Tears of joy streamed down my face as I smiled and sang along to every song. This band has a special touch from God on them.

They flew through several of their songs from "Setting Fire...", such as: "Saved"; "Elijah On Carmel"; and "The Suffering Servant". Peo has done a marvelous job taking over the vocals. He adds some of his own style to songs like "Come On", where he fills a long bridge with his keyboards and continues the chorus of "Come on, come on, let's rock for the King." Kjell (pronounced "shell") Andersson's double bass

Cont'd on page 37

Bloodgood's Back!

Bloodgood has returned from Europe, where they played in some rather dark corners. "We played in a district named 'Christiania' in Denmark," says Michael. Once a military base, the area was deserted 20 years ago and taken over by hippies. The district does not recognize the government of Denmark, has their own laws and their own flag. Drugs are legal in the district and the only church they recognize officially is the Church of Satan. The Copenhagen police force doesn't patrol the area.

"It's a miracle we (Leviticus and Bloodgood) were even allowed to play," says Michael. "We were the first Christian bands to play there since the formation of the district." The venue they played in was right next door to the Church of Satan. The oppression and darkness in the club was overwhelming according to Michael. "They were serving hash cakes as we were playing." During the concert, Satanists were praying curses on the bands, but God was victorious and in the end the whole atmosphere in the place had changed. "The whole experience united the bands and the road crew together. It was nothing that we did as a band, it was all God's doing."

Bloodgood received some fine secular press in Europe this Fall. Kerrang! gave them a four K rating for "Rock In A Hard Place".

The Bulgarian Olympic Committee used the instrumental prelude to Jerusalem's **Dancing On The Head Of The Serpent** in their video presentation bid to host the 1996 Winter Olympics. Jerusalem's office phones began ringing like crazy in response.

Refuge has released the video to the song Dancing On The Head Of The Serpent to Christian video shows and plans to release it to MTV later this Fall.

Saint's Josh Kramer is currently growing in the Lord at Sanctuary. He's sitting in on Bible studies and giving guitar lessons. He originally auditioned for Saint as a guitarist, but they couldn't find a singer so I switched over to vocals. Saint wanted a non-guitar playing singer. Due to the large number of guitar-slinging vocalists out there, they've put a guitar back on Josh to jam with the rhythm section during lead breaks, intros, and endings.

Sal Baldino, ex-Mission guitarist, is starting up another band, which will be "Baldino and The New York Mission". Musically, it will be a straight-ahead Southern rock/ boogie sound similar to ZZ-Top or The Georgia Satellites. He's also been putting on lots of concerts in New York City, called "The Infinity Concert Series". BC, Bride, and The Lead have played there. Baldino also has several copies of The Mission's "Face The World" for $5. Send to C.M.U. c/o Baldino, 33-60 21st Street, L.I.C. NY 11106. Bands: if you're interested in gigging at Infinity Concerts, write Baldino.

Charizma visited Los Angeles this summer and played at Gazzarri's in front of a wild audience. They were scheduled to play at Cornerstone's talent search showcase, but missed their flight. They played at the Greenbelt Festival along with Whitecross and Shout. They played in front of 3,000 in a sidestage called The Big Top. Derek Oliver of Kerrang! Magazine has contracted Charizma to play on a compilation album called "Force 10". Charizma's single "Turn Me On" will appear with seven other secular bands. The band was hoping to obtain a new lead singer this past summer, but have settle into having guitarist Bosse Nikolausson continue to handle the lead vocals.

Larry Norman just got back from a tour which took him to Russia, Scotland, and England. His long-awaited "Home At Last" album will finally be released on Benson. His "Thirty Years" cd is now finished and ready for distribution via Solid Rock and Spring Arbor.

One day before going to press, I received an advance copy of "The White Metal Explosion". The production on the two songs I heard was hot.

Abortion Is Murder! Doctors are killing little babies! It's gotta stop. One way to help is to find out if Planned Parenthood is in your schools. If they are, simply ask the principal for equal time to show the other side of the story.

White Metal Explosion, a radio show out of Atlanta, announces a much-needed resource. It's the "White Metal Directory". It would list and market product ranging from t-shirts to tapes of several radical Christian bands. The bands will have to offer a percentage of their sales as payment for this marketing. Interested parties ought to call Dean Clark between 4pm and 9pm EST @ (404) 997-2704 or 361-8843. A word to the wise concerning new mail-order services: check them out prayerfully and thoroughly before doing business with them. Get credit references. Get a character reference (pastor maybe). If they're not willing to give this, ask yourself why. This advice doesn't necessarily reflect the White Metal Directory. It just needs to be said due to the poor business practices of #1 Son, The Music Shop and Cream Of The Crop.

California Metal II should be out soon with cuts from Soldier; Recon; Bashan-Tyre; Judea; and Emerald.

The Soldier cuts on the album will be "Tears" and "Borderline". Jimmy Arceneaux recently became a father to Rachel Nicole. Congratulations Jimmy!

Zion has finished their debut album. For those of you who heard and liked their two-song sampler, you're gonna be blown away by this! The production is ten times hotter. The nine songs on this release are as follows: "Who Pulls The Strings?"; "Kick In The Gates Of Hell"; "Is It A Crime?"; "Help Me"; "Thrill Seeker"; "Sold You A Lie"; "Roll The Rock"; "Less Of Me"; and "He Loves You" (which is a remix of "Jesus Loves"). Zion is signed to Image, yet Word is going to release one of the songs, "Is It A Crime?", on a sampler album this January.

Autumn Rose's lead singer, Michael James, is not a girl (as reported in issue #16). Their tape can be ordered for $3. Make checks to Michael Misiuk, 123 Orangeblossom, Irvine CA 92714.

Blues artist Larry Howard was a big hit at this year's Flavo and Greenbelt Festivals. Larry and his band played for over 9,000 at Flavo and played two sets at Greenbelt.

Gardian hamming it up with Oz in the studio.

Gardian's debut album, or should I say "prayer project", has been recorded. It's called "First Watch" and the cd will have these 12 songs: "I'll Never Leave You"; "Mystery Man"; "Livin' For The Promise"; "Miracle"; "Saint's Battalion"; "Kingdom Of Rock"; "The Good Life"; "One Of A Kind"; "World Without Love"; "Rock In Victory"; "Hyperdrive"; and "Marching On" (The last two songs are the bonus cd tracks).

Gardian apologizes to all those who have written in and not received a reply. "We got swamped and we're out of management now, so we're trying to catch up."

One Bad Pig has finished recording their debut album for Pure Metal Records. Billy Smiley, from Whiteheart, produced these 12 songs. It sizzles! It's more produced and metal than their "Christian Banned" EP, yet still retains their originality and integrity. Included are nine brand new songs, like "Smash The Guitar", "People Cry Out", "Take A Flying Leap", and "Godarchy", which fuses two older Pig tunes together--"Anarchy Is Prison" and "Godarchy".

The Pig is booking dates for their summer tour. If you're interested, **call Streak at (512) 389-1619.**

David Gould is a hot drummer looking for a serious Christian band. He has a demo and beat transcription available for review for interested parties. You may contact him @ David Gould, 27 Overlake Dr, Nepean, Ontario, Canada, K2E-5V2 or call (613) 226-7218.

Deliverance is due to be released on Intense Records in late February. "Intense Metal For Intense Times" posters with band logos are available for $4 (plus $1 postage). Send to: Intense Poster, PO Box **9318, Waukegan IL 60079.**

Mastedon is going to release a new song on California Metal II--"Get Up". Their full-length debut album, "It's A Jungle Out There", will be released by the end of November.

I heard a cut from the new Mastedon record and it is hot, which should surprise no one. The sound is produced flawlessly, which should surprise no one, and it has a "mega-radio-airplay" sound.

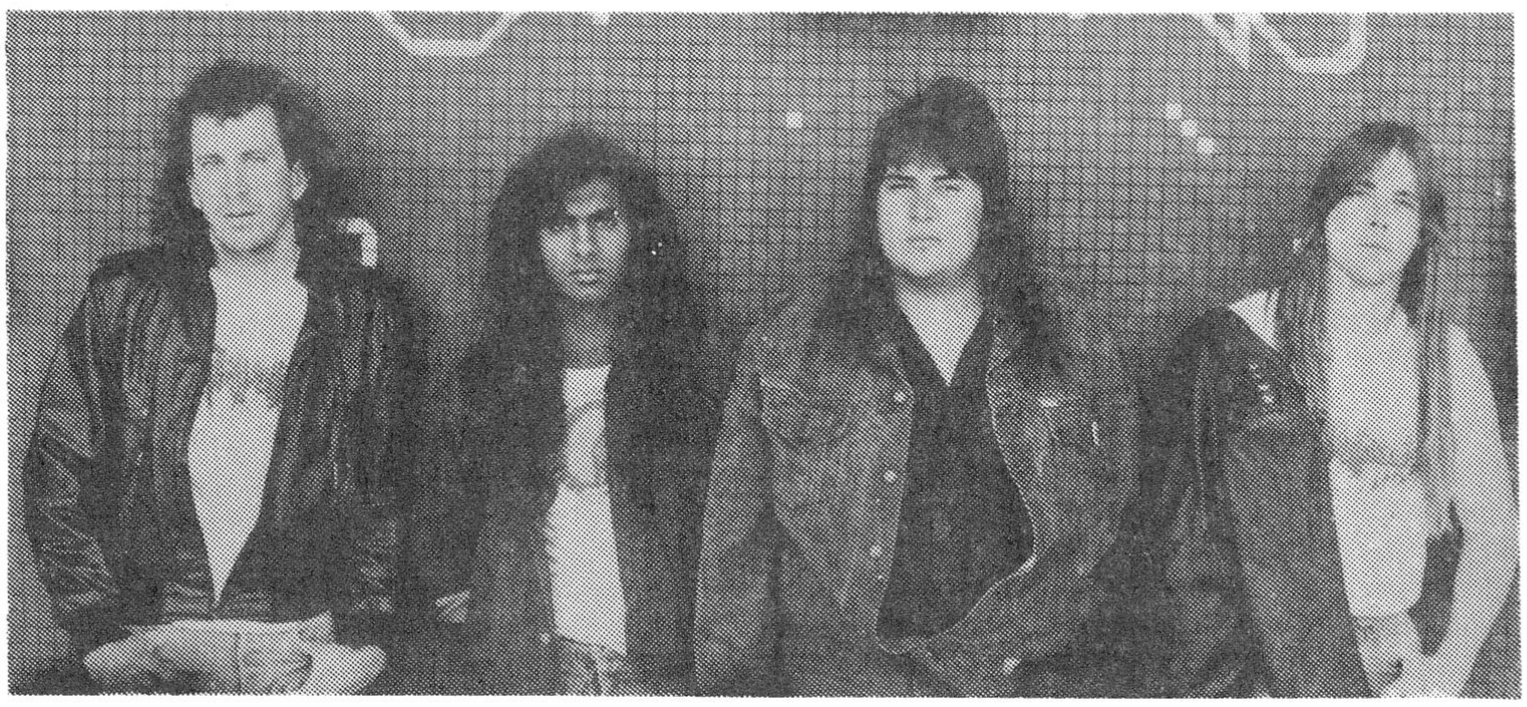
Stryper's "In God We Trust" shipped gold. Currently their touring all over with White Lion as an opening act.

In case you never saw it, Benson released a sampler tape called "Hot Metal Summer". It featured good, short interviews with BC, Stryper, Bloodgood, and Shout. Cuts on the album are: **Imaginary Music; Shout; In God We Trust**; and **Heaven On Earth.**

The Warning have three tapes out, **Repent Or Die; A Virgin In The Midst Of Whores**; and, as of November, **Cut The Crap** (which may have a limited run with the title "Cut The Garbage" for Spring Arbor). You can order directly from the Warning through the mail @ $6 a tape. (Foreign orders add $2) Send to Radicals For Christ, PO Box 1142, Victorville CA 92393.

King's Kids is a melodic metal band with a good sound. Write 'em at: PO Box 1625, Glen Burnie MD 21061.

Deliverance



WHITECROSS welcomes new label mates One Bad Pig
Left to right: Scott; Mark; Paul Q-Pek; Phillip Owens (new drummer); John; Kosher; Rex; and Streak Wheeler.

Photo by Karen Loke

Frontline Records signed **Divine Right**, who are going to change their name to "Brando". Les Carlsen and Ken Tamplin will probably help out on the album.

Soldier is negotiating with Frontline...

Speaking of Frontline, they are releasing a 12-song compilation tape called "White Hot Metal". It will be marketed to secular record stores.

Regency has selected their lineup for their Underground Metal album. Here it is: **Come On** by Bjorn Stigsson; **It's Only Rock & Roll** by Armada; **Cities Are Burning** by Mercy Rule; **Ruler** by Paradox; **No Surfin' In Hell** by Torn Flesh; **Fear No Evil** by The Watchmen; **Step Into Light** by Chariot; **Why Are There So Many Sinners** by Paragon; and **So Glad** by Deniece Williams...er, I mean Chosen Stranger.

Record Reviews

Recommendations this issue go to: Jerusalem's **Dancing On The Head Of The Serpent; Hammer And Nail** by Whitecross; **Rock In A Hard Place** by Bloodgood; **East Coast Metal; Power And Glory** by Paradox; **Human Sacrifice** by Vengeance; **Rebellion** by Sacred Warrior; **Spirit Wind** by Revelation; the new **Zion** album (when released); and the Angelica and Retrace demos.

East Coast Metal

This album is a diverse collection of several different metal sounds: Apostle gives us a neo-classical/ wailing vocalist sound; Rage Of Angels furnishes a commercial yet on the edge fun-metal sound; Believer thrashes out some speed metal; Taker offers both a melodic metal ballad and a straight-ahead metal anthem; Second Chance gives us a taste of gritty, decibel-busting power metal a la Saint or Judas Priest; The Lead imparts a taste of punk metal; and Arsenal serves two helpings of female heavy rock with lots of hooks.

The top cut has to be "Reason To Rock" by R.O.A. It's their second appearance on a compilation album...and they haven't even released a full-length album yet! It's a double-guitar attack with sassy vocals in a Cinderella or Motley Crue vein. Danny Mariano's vocals are crisp. Let's face it, this band has one of the sounds in Christian metal. The double bass drums and cymbal smashes are mixed in great with a tight rhythm and fluid leads.

Taker, one of my favorite unsigned bands, put a fresh recording of "Yesterday, Today, And Forever" on here. It's very nice, but I actually prefer the old version on the demo that has a good double guitar lead at the end. "Living By Faith" is a hard-driving anthem which includes members of Second Chance shouting along in the chorus. This song features a fierce rhythm, but the vocals seem to get buried a bit.

Believer becomes the third band to put Christian thrash on vinyl with "The Chosen". It starts off with a beautiful classical guitar riff before charging into an ear-splitting, snare-smashing rhythm. The lead break here is tasty.

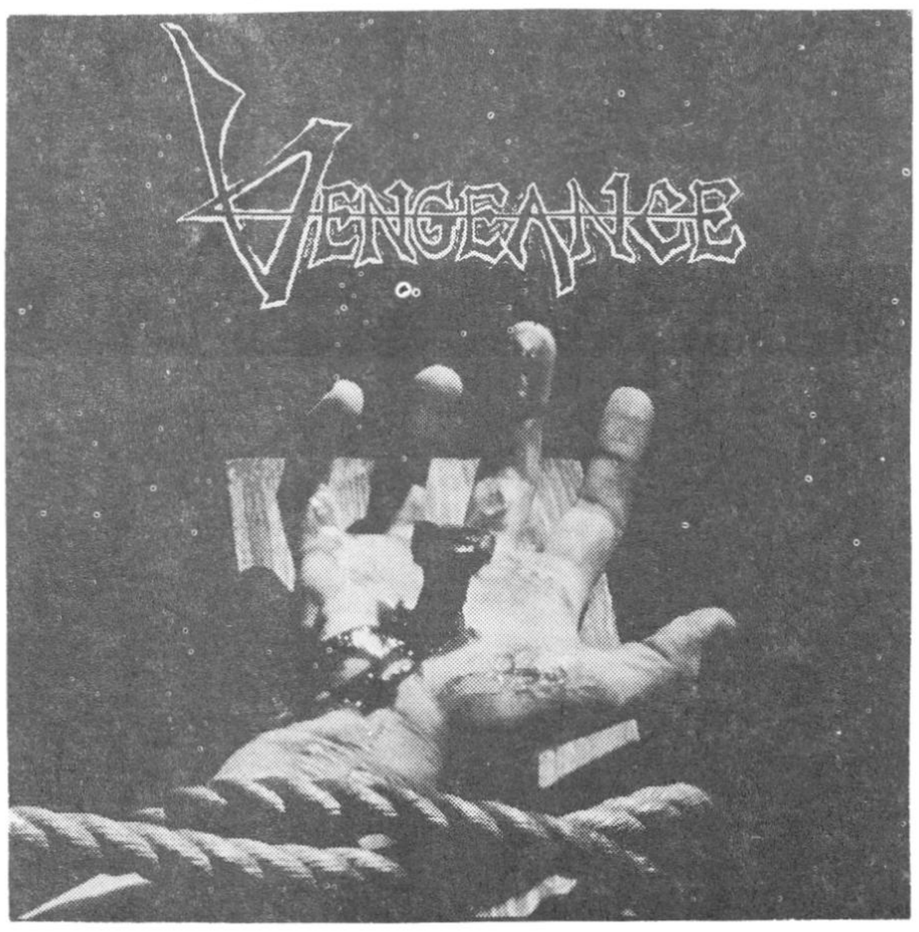
Apostle's debut here is exciting to see. This trio is tight.

Arsenal puts on what's probably the best performance for a female vocalist in Christian hard rock in "Message Of Love". It'll be good to hear more from them.

It's another real joy to see Second Chance finally get their chance to record on vinyl. "The Blazing Wasteland" is a heavy, hard-driving song.

Many thanks go to Regency for the insight and initiative to go after these "not underground for long" bands. Their only problem may be meeting the demand to sign most of these bands.

--DV



Human Sacrifice - Vengeance

This album is utterly awesome! I used to not appreciate thrash. It used to not impress me. A friend once gave me tickets to see Metallica two years ago and I came away wondering what all the fuss over thrash was about. All these attitudes, of course, were demolished when I first heard the Vengeance demo. I love it!

Vengeance is extremely tight. The vocal sound is very, very intense. When the band starts jamming, you hear a sound as precise as a machine.

I know of no band who goes to the effort Vengeance does of laying down solid doctrine in their songs. Producer and label president, Caesar Kalinowski, tells me that even secular execs at Enigma are fully impressed with the songwriting of lead throat-scratcher Roger Martinez.

"Human Sacrifice" is truly a ground-breaking album for Christian metal. THis record features the most intense sound ever released to the Christian market. Christians have finally caught up with their secular counterparts (Slayer, Exodus, Kreator) and have even surpassed them.

Don't buy this album if you're expecting a ballad. There's no soft lyrics or music here, except maybe the "Ascention" instrumental.

Highlights on the album are: "Burn"; "I Love Hating Evil"; and the five songs from their demo ("White Throne", "Salvation", "He Is God", "Beheaded", and the title track).

Martinez sends shivers down your spine when he howls and asks, "Are you listening to what I say?" or growls "I love hating evil," and also when he screams at the end of "Beheaded".

Larry Farkas' leads are blazing, expecialy during the title track.

"Burn" and "Mulligan's Stew" show Vengeance's ability to slow down for a moshing style of thrash, which may be the type of sound thrashers take in the future if they decide to reach a broader audience.

Everyone should buy at least two copies of this album. One for personal enjoyment and one to give to an unsaved thrasher/ speed metal freak. The incredible music will deman respect from thrash connoisseurs and the scriptural lyrics will confront all sinners.

Thrash: Nobody does it better than Vengeance.

--DV

Rebellion - Sacred Warrior

This album is so brilliant, it's blinding! Here's a Christian metal group with flash, guts and great songs. Sacred Warrior plays operatic metal with a fist class, melodic, medieval touch. Once everybody hears this band, there'll be a new question being asked: "Have you heard Sacred Warrior yet?"

Black Metal starts off the album with polished production. Ron Goudie, who mixed the original "Yellow And Black Attack" EP, did a good job brining Tony Velazquez's drumming up in the mix. The rhythm section, blended with Bruce Swift's melodic leads and Rey Parra's multi-octave vocals are all balanced very well, keeping the overall sound solidly in the midrange.

How else can you say this is a killer album? With new releases from Jerusalem and Whitecross and now this one, it's gonna be a tough choice for favorite album of the year.

What makes Sacred Warrior outstanding are their strong background vocals, Bruce's swift and fluid lead breaks (Sorry, Bruce, I couldn't resist the pun--ed) and Rey's piercing and clear vocals.

"He Died" is a beautiful, sweeping ballad that jerks the tears out of the toughest of listeners. A soft keyboard backs up Rey's vocals, before the whole band jumps in to emphasize that "It's time you realize/ What He has done for you."

The double bass drumming of "Children Of The Light" come screaming out of the speakers just after the soft ballad, "He Died", creating a great heavy metal shock effect.

"Rebellion" starts off with some bouncing tom-toms before Bruce's guitar comes screaming along with a great riff and the big background vocals go, "oh-whoa, oh-whoa, whoa-oh-oh-oh-oh!" After the first chorus, there's a great double-bass solo complete with cow bells.

"Famine" ends with a great lead break, perfectly synchronized with the keyboards, creating a double-lead sound a la Stryper.

The excellent songwriting proves itself by each son's ability to sink its hook into your memory. After listening to this album, see how long it takes you to hear the following excerpts run through your mind:

"The long hair parted between the eyes...

"But our own right-eous-ness/ is like filthy rags...

"Ooohhhh/ Stay away from evil.

"He died for you and I/ Oh, Jesus.

"We are/ Children of the light!

"Give it up/ Rebellion/ Your mind of rage.

"Ooooooohhh/ The heaven's are calling.

"We can help them along.

"Master of lies!

"We all will walk in victory/ With a sword in our right hand."

As these lines reveal, Sacred Warrior has very bold lyrics. These lyrics also reveal a deep understanding of scripture, our identity in Christ and the importance of the cross.

This album has everything it takes to be popular: great music; great production; great cover art; and five humble guys who can perform this music live.

Anyone into metal should enjoy this one. (Cd buyers can't beat the $11.98 price!) By all means, check it out.

--DV

When The Son Comes Down - The Metal Monks

This 4-song tape is what some would call "art rock" or "dark metal". Most of the vocals by Sean O'Leary are sung an octave below most metal singers. This can work well, as demonstrated by Mike Lee of Barren Cross, but unfortunately it does not come off as well here. The musical ideas on this tape are promising, but it lacks the big professional production that is needed in this genre. The highlight of the tape is the power ballad, "Can't You See That He Loves You". The sincerity of Metal Monks is evident throughout, and potential is something they have a lot of. The Monks have not arrived, but they are on their way.

Send $6 to Metal Monks, c/o YWAM Vancouver, PO Box 4670, Vancouver B.C. Canada, A6B 4A1. Make checks to Victor Brassard.

--PQ

Breakin' Free by Sentry

Lyrically straightforward and evangelically-oriented, "Breaking Free" is definitely what this tape from the New York based band Sentry is all about.

The tape kicks off with an upbeat melodic tune called "Shout The Word", which challenges Christians to stop being silent and instead to boldly proclaim the Gospel. The tempo immediately slows down with "Real Love", a ballad about the true love of God and how it can heal the heartache in people's lives. continuing the message of God's love and mercy is the next song, "To Go My Own Way", which has the Lord saying "I will forgive all the pain and the hurt you've caused Me/ Even if you go your own way."

The cassette wraps up with "Shattered Lives", which has a message reminiscent of the first song. It urges Christians to come out of their complacency and to show Christ's compassion for the lost and hurting: "No, it's not a game/ Their feeling's at stake/ Tell me why, why aren't you able to see/ It's too late, a heart has been broken."

Containing a heavy keyboard sound throughout, this is certainly not raw, driving metal, but it is indeed quality, commercial-sounding rock worth listening to.

To order, send $5 (plus $1.75 postage) to Sentry/ Jeffrey Stewart, Eastern Nazarene College, 23 East Elm Ave, Quincy MA 02170. (T-shirts are $8) If you order more than one item, add 75 cents for each additional item.

--CK

Retrace (demo)

This Swedish band continues the high quality, melodic standards that Leviticus, Jerusalem and Charizma have set.

This six-song tape, although displaying demo-quality mixing and production, has a commercial sound that kills. I'm a sucker for this brand of metal and these guys pull it off with all the necessary ingredients. They've got hooks, leads, vocals, and lyrics.

"Fight The Night" is an anthem that reverberates in your mind long after it's over.

The tape has some hot songs. it's not quite "blow you away" material, but it shows some tremendous potential. Besides, Niklas Franklin, the new bass player for Leviticus, says they're a good band.

Another friend of the band, who sent me their tape, said, "They are well known in Jonuoping and most people think their music is great. The only ones who don't are the band members themselves." The band deliverated a long time before they even sent this tape to Heaven's Metal. I'm glad they did. This is a band we'll probably be hearing from in the future.

If you'd like a copy, send $8 to Retrace, c/o Thomas Olotson, Barnarpsg. 98B, S-55265 Jonuoping, Sweden.

--DV

Silence Screams by Rez

Rez returns to their hard rock roots with this long-awaited release and Rez fans are gonna love it. This album is also the debut product on the newly-formed Grrr Records. (Amy has Myrrh and now Rez has Grrr.) It is also the first hard rock album that will be named Word's "album of the month".

The title track starts off with an ethereal prelude before kicking into a raunchy blues-based rocker with all the gut and muscle that Rez is known for. Gone are most of the synthesizers Rez experimented with on "Hostage", and present are the "skin and bones" of rock and roll: drums; guitar; and bass. "We're trying to get back to the feel of 'Awaiting Your Reply'," explains guitarist Glenn Kaiser.

"You Got Me Rockin'" continues the energy with a sassy, fun-time rocker. Wendi Kaiser handles lead vocals on this one.

"Someone Sleeps" slows the pace down a bit with a heartland rock ballad. Glenn adds a lot of emotion to it with his leather-tough vocals.

"The bitter cup is filled once more/ a bloody history pains this land/ They try to seal a tomb that's empty/ while they build the cross again/ and someone deals in pain/ and someone deals in power. and someone sleeps tonight, forever."

"Waitin' On Sundown" pulls no punches with social commentary lamenting over greedy, power-hungry landlords in big cities. The message is played the way it shsould be: with workin' man's high-volume rock 'n' roll.

"Presence Of The Lord", that old Eric Clapton and Blind Faith classic, is resurrected here with a rousing performance.

"Light/ Light" is a propelling song with one great hook. This one had the Cornerstone crowd singin' along this year, which is probably the audience that was captured on tape and mixed in for the final chorus here.

"Rain Dance" features some blistering steel guitar work a la Eric Clapton or Robert Cray. This song is a fine example of the trademark poetry of Rez. Sung in first person, the writer makes himself vulnerable and shares his hurts as he prays, "Lord, send your rain."

"Every Waking Hour" brings home the power chords and heavy drums in a Led-Zeppelin fashion.

"Three Seconds" is a story that starts with drugs, arrest and prison, but turns when "an old song (resounds) in his ears/ Amazing Grace for him/ and then came the tears."

"You Get What You Choose" starts off with a big acoustic guitar sound very similar to The Alarm, while driving home a no-nonsense message of "it's time to get on our knees."

Rez, who has been a pillar in Christian rock for over a decade, incorporates all their influences in this delicious platter of midwestern hard rock. A band which has been known for putting its ministry where its mouth is, delivers the goods on "Silence Screams".

--DV

Power And Glory by Paradox

Power And Glory starts off with a bang, showing off the diversity of this power-packed quartet from San Antonio. The title cut and tape opener is a heavy bomber. You feel the low end come through the speakers with authority...and then lead vocalist, Manual Castillo and bassist Phil Galicia harmonize their screaming voices to shout "Jesus Christ!" Efrain Galicia tears into some really fast and heavy drumming here.

This song shows anyone who hasn't seen the band live that they can rock with the heavyweights.

Guitar hero Fernando Hernandez does a splendid job putting down the rhythm tracks as well as ripping through some quick leads.

"I Just Want To Love You" continues in the exciting style that made the "Ruler" tape so popular--it's full of big vocal harmonies and catchy guitar hooks.

"I want a love that is good for you/ I want a love that'll see us through/ I don't want to make love to you/ I just want to love you."

"Meet The King", which was released on Regency Music's "Underground Metal", has some choppy rhythms that firmly plant this song into your memory.

"Sweet Reunion" is a tear-jerking ballad with an emotion-packed story behind it. It is basically sung to John Vidaurri, who was killed last December in an auto accident, with lyrics that express the longing to be with him again that day when we're reunited in heaven.

The guitar lead here has a lot of feeling to it (way to go Fern!) and packs as much emotion as the words to the song. This ballad is sure to go down in Christian metal history. It's sincere and pulled off with the class of a "Free Bird" or (gulp!) "Stairway To Heaven".

Fernando shows us his Jimi Hendrix/ Frank Marino/ Uli Roth influences with his mega-feedbacked version of "Amazing Grace".

"I wanted to do something different," says Fernando. In a world full of neo-classical suites, frantic scales and hammer-ons, "Amazing Grace" stands out with its return to the roots--a strat feeding back through a vintage Marshall stack.

"Power And Glory" is more evidence that Paradox has been blessed of God with talent. Production is album quality. After listening to this tape, you'll wonder why they're not signed. You can have their tape by sending $7 to Paradox Productions, 2641 Nacogdoches, San Antonio TX 78217.

--DV

Rock In A Hard Place - Bloodgood

Gone are the tromp and stomp metal screamers and present are the highly-produced commercial sounds of a pop-metal band a la Europe. It's a dramatic change for a band named Bloodgood, but it works. "We didn't want to release a 'Detonation part two', " explains Michael Phillip Bloodgood. It was time for them to make a change, without departing from the metal genre. With "Rock In A Hard Place" they make the transition from on-the-edge metal band that shreds and rips to a marketable, hard-rockin' band with a ton of catchy hooks.

Bloodgood hasn't really changed their style here. According to a radio interview that Frontline released, RIAHP basically just shows another personality or side to the band. In concert they still roar through their crunchy and speedy tunes, plus they beef up the songs on this album.

A lot of headbangers will cry "sold out", but I'll have to cast my vote for Bloodgood. The fact it, whether it's commercial or not, it's still a good album.

Bloodgood has written nine songs with great hooks and hot lead breaks. Claude Leslie Carlsen delivers each one with the passion he's known for. David Vincent Zaffiro's guitar is more prominent in the mix then their previous two efforts and, during several songs, feature something new for Bloodgood--an acoustic track. It's a nice touch that adds some extra body to the sound.

"Shakin' It" starts off the album with an Aerosmith-style rhythm and blues assault and a tongue-in-cheek sermon concerning the judgement which begins in the house of God. It seems as if the boys from Seattle are really having fun on this one. Zaffiro pulls off some killer string-stretching response notes to Carlsen's voice here.

"Never Be The Same" has one of those catchy choruses that you just have to sing along with: "I am cal-ling you..."

"What Have I Done" deserves the wider audience that Bloodgood is searching for. If only they had the promotional dollars that Journey has...then you'd hear this song on every radio station and see a video of it on MTV.

Choice cuts on the album for me are the two heaviest songs: "Do Or Die" and "Heaven On Earth". "Do Or Die" pulsates with efficient, crunchy rhythms. Mark Howard Welling's snare drumming is upfront and accurate.

"She's Gone" is another emotional song a la "Alone In Suicide". Included here are the ever-present acoustic guitar tracks by Zaffiro that all the reviews are commenting on. They add a nice feel to the song, creating a fuller sound. He also pulls off some clean leads here too. The theme of the song runs close to "Alone In Suicide", where a girl takes her life, leaving the writer agonizing this loss and wishing for the time back to tell her about Jesus.

Overall, I'd say Bloodgood timed this new sound well. They never waited in one place long enough for anyone to accuse them of being stuck in a rut. If you've got broad tastes and especially love melodic metal, you'll like this release. If you're only satisfied with barn-burners like "Black Snake" and "Crucify", just buy the new Vengeance album.

--DV

Dark War by Xalt

This professionally packaged cassette starts off with a big-sounding intro. Apparently Xalt has put a lot of money into their music. The cover art looks great. The production sounds full.

"The Cross" starts off with a hot lick. Guitarist James Erdman has found a good sound.

"God In A Box" has a pretty good hook and a great message:

"We smile a lot, but our hearts don't ache...We've got God in a box."

Xalt's sound reminds me of the Amboy Dukes' early sound, which seems to indicate that their roots are right near their home in Michigan. Counting the intro, there's four instrumentals on the tape, "Soldiers In The Mill" being the best of the lot.

"Angry Fire" has kind of a North American Indian sound to it, or at least what Hollywood has told us what Indian-style music is.

Xalt shows lots of potential. Considering their age, Xalt should have a bright future.

"Ready For The Fight" has a hot drum sound and an aggressive rhythm. It's a good hard-driving song. Everything in this song wins. Vocalist Scott Doerfler is at his best, the band is smoking hot and the lyrics kill.

"The battle is raging, got demons in our sight/ No way in Heaven will Satan get loose tonight...Ready for the fight...Slippery as a serpent, he's told you many lies/ He baits you then he shakes you, wants to see you die!/ But now we've come against him, the Lord has heard our cry/ Our Father has him underfoot, we need not wonder why!"

This tape fares better than a lot of underground attempts at quality recordings. With the focus of "Dark War" squarely upon spiritual warfare, it must be considered a success in the message category. In the musical category, this project lacks enough originality, tightens and captivating vocals to dazzle today's rock and roll consumer. Collectors are gonna want this, cause we're probably gonna hear more from Xalt.

To order see ad this issue.

--DV

Angelica (demo)

This demo is awesome! Angelica is a band that should be known. This Canadian project has a very clean, European sound. It's very commercial, but don't let that scare you! Dennis Cameron's blazing guitar licks are definitely hot enough to keep your attention. There's enough crunch here to match most any metal band.

The song compositions are above par promising a musical future for Angelica. God's given Dennis a message that's straight-forward and life-changing, as well as a talent to be heard and respected.

"Follow Me/ Follow Him" starts off with a fluid two-note intro with just the right amount of delay as power-chords march the song into some authoritative verse:

"Pressing on towards our goal...follow me, follow Him and we'll walk together."

"(Another) Broken Dream" starts off with a real groovy (did I say that?) tradeoff between guitar and tom tom. The standard metal scream is mixed in and out and the song plods along from there. The chorus is real anthemic and melodic, much like Kiss. There's a shrill neo-classical lead during the bridge of this song that shows us a glimpse at Cameron's skills as a guitarist.

"Here's Lookin' At You" ends this tape with another hook-filled song. Someone put this band in the studio with lots of time and a hot producer. Angelica sounds like a hit-making machine. Watch out Shout!

Angelica is currently two-piece, consisting of: Dennis Cameron on a six-string contraption of some sort; and Andy Lyon, who filled in as a substitute vocalist for White Lion during an illness of Mike Tramp. They're looking to complete their lineup so as to tour with their material and hopefully support their debut album.

To obtain a demo, send $10 to Angelica, 140 Simpson Ave, Renfrew, Ontario, Canada, K7V 2P5.

--DV

Tough Love by Idle Cure

The new Idle Cure album...are we gonna hear some more songs like "Breakaway"? Not this time. Instead we have a plush, full sound similar to Whiteheart's "Emergency Broadcast". There's layer upon layer of textured harmonies here, sometimes as huge and ominous as the entire rhythm section, identifying Idle Cure as an arena-size pop rock band with an 80's accent of sax and keys.

There's plenty of gritty vocals and crunchy guitars produced with a spit-shine polish. Bill Baumgar did another stellar job producing this one. If you're a hardcore headbanger, you might want to pass on this album. But, if you appreciate most of today's heavy pop sound, you'll probably like Idle Cure's new album.

"Tough Love" is a little more consistent than their debut album, which featured almost as many styles and musical directions as number of cuts. All the songs on this album seem to go in the same direction.

"Just Believe It" has the heaviest drum sound and clear cut power chords, while "Frontline" features the loudest vocal harmonies.

If you thought you'd heard the ballad "So Many Faces" before, it's because the keyboard and drum intro sounds like a dead ringer for Whitesnake's "Is This Love?"

Lyrically this album is very straightforward and evangelistic. "Barter Mercy" drives home the message that we can't cover up our sins to make ourselves or our ministries look good, because God sees right through our lies and will reveal our hearts judgment day.

Overall, this is a good album that shouldn't be ignored by radio programmers. It'd be nice to see Idle Cure succeed at their airplay formula.

--DV

Free Indeed - Contagious

This is how metal ought to be produced! Randy Thomas of Allies does a fine job on the production end of the project. The guitar really cranks, and everything sounds nice and crisp. In fact, the guitar work on this tape is great! (There's an awesome open guitar solo after the opening cut!) But the songs are not that great, and the lead vocals are a bit on the weak side. Still, all serious metal-heads ought to have this in their tape library.

--MM (It reminds me of Y&T.-ed.)

Solid Rock - Chosen

This five-piece band from the Denver, Colorado area rocks with an extremely tight progressive hard rock sound and a technological-age production. Scott Michael's vocals have a great mixture of sass and crystal-clear vocals--very similar to Def Leppard's Joe Elliot.

Although there's no real amazing guitar work on the album, Michael Kent performs several basic leads with precision. "Creation Cries Out" is a very pretty ballad. Once in the chorus, it sounds like a D&K song. "Save Me", probably the heaviest song on the tape, is arranged similar to a Charizma song.

Overall, this is a very impressive tape. Write Chosen for purchasing info, you won't be let down production-wise. Chosen, Box 33267, Northglenn CO 80233-0267.

--DV

One Way To Heaven - Straightway

This five-piece band from is causing some excitement in Houston, Texas with their brand of commercial metal. While not up to radio-airplay production, it's close. The songs have good hooks, hot guitars, a nice blend of keys, and tight BGV's. This is a band to keep a watch on. If they keep cranking away, their sound will reach perfection. Best cuts are: "Come Back" and the title track. "Wounded Heart" has an interesting storyline in it for metal lyrics. It's a cry from a child suffering from child abuse and some comforting assurance that "The Lord is coming and He's near."

Send $8 to Straightway Ministries, PO Box 24280, Houston TX 77279.

--DV

Powerchange - Divine Right

Attention metal guitarists: you will especially enjoy this remarkable performance. While the quality of the tape is under par (the project was recorded on an 8-track Fostex), the musicianship definitely makes it worth the extra hiss. Kevin Brandow delivers outstanding performances on guitars, vocals, and bass guitars, and even plays keys and drums. Dave Hoffis, the only other performer on the tape, assists on vocals and production. The stacks of vocals on this tape are amazing, in light of the fact that they used only 8 tracks. (Must have been lots of ping-ponging going on during the recording sessions.) Musically, the songs are well written. Good hooks, catchy choruses. Lyrically, there's a real joy expressed in the songs. However, the lyrics are all very much oriented toward the individual. Everything's first-person. There's more to Christianity than just "me and Jesus". Maybe Brandow will consider this point on future recordings, which are sure to come (Mr. Van Pelt informs me that Brandow is now signed with Frontline). Despite the poor quality of production, I still highly recommend "Powerchange".

Available through Spring Arbor. ISBN # is 000-688-1025.

--MM

Spiritual Wind - Revelation

This is a hot tape with good production (sounds 24-track), both musically and graphically. The tape insert features two full-color photos of the band. The songs have full, crunchy guitars with low, aggressive vocals. This is heavy stuff. This is full-sounding, professional stuff. Ya gotta check it out. Send $8 to Revelation, 300 Ocean Tr. Way, # 110, Jupiter FL 33477.

--DV

Warrior Of Light - Force 3

Eight song debut from this three member unit from England, including Charlie Wilson (ex-100% Proof), lead guitar and vocals, G.B. Bennett, bass, and Andy Jackson on drums and vocals.

The mix is full, but a little bassy and the vocals are buried at times.

The music and lyrics are a little less than creative, but the tape still rocks due to the power chord assault by Charlie.

Standout cuts are "Golgotha (He Is Risen)", "Trouble In The Streets", and the title cut. Heavy stuff. Available on Pure Metal.

--PQ

KIGA (demo)

The drums are pounding, the bass is thumping, and the guitar is crunching. I was surprised, when I heard this five-song tape, that these guys aren't signed yet. The production, musicianship and songwriting are way above "demo tape" standards. The singer sounds a little like Eddie Money. Copies of "Armor Of Light" are $5. Send to KIGA, 9901 E. Valley Ranch Pkwy, Suite 2030, Irving TX 75063.

-PQ

Mercy Rule (demo)

These five guys are rockin' hard to tell unsaved people that there is no satisfaction in the way they are living. In "Don't You Know": "You spin your wheels/ trapped in a dream of his (Satan's) lies."

From "Success" comes these sobering lyrics: "My friend, success without the Savior is meaningless and sad." The third and best song on this tape is "There Is A Love": "My heart is crying to you/ when will you answer?" The only complaint I have of this tape is the lead guitar--when it cranks it hurts and this is not what these songs need. However the vocals are great and that's half the ballgame. Good lyrics, good music, good band.

"Cities Are Burning", a song that was added to the demo later, is a cranking, hook-filled song. Being the latest song recorded on this tape, it better represents Mercy Rule. This melodic metal could definitely keep a crowd rockin'. Things are looking good for Mercy Rule. Listen for them on "Underground Metal". Send $5 to: Mercy Rule, 34432 Harrpim. Wayne MI 48184.

--PQ & DV

Reviewers are Doug Van Pelt Paul Q-Pek Caroline Knox and Maury Millican.

Take Control - Phil Accardi's Chalice

Here's some professional pop metal to sink your teeth into. Chalice goes after that slick arena rock sound that's made girls squeal for the last ten years. Bands like Bon Jovi, Kiss, Journey, and Cinderella, and Britny Fox all fuse commercial/ radio-airplayable hooks with power chords, long hair and spandex.

Obviously some hardcore headbangers are not going to favor this slick sound, but Chalice can't be knocked for doing an amateurist job. Phil Accardi and Chalice execute their music with precision and professionalism. They sank some money into this project. The production is tight and the artwork is nice and full color.

"Take Control" starts off the tape with a rocker, "Eyes Of Burning Fire". It has a great crunching hook and upfront lyrics: "Eyes of burning fire/ Shine a holy Light on you/ No other Love is higher/ Jesus paid a price for you."

The title track is another energy-packed pop rocker. It features several commercial choruses, but also has some well-timed screams and flying riffs at the end of the song. "Victim Of The Night" is a standout cut on the album. There is some very good sounds from the blending of the organ and guitar.

--DV

NOW AUDITIONING

for

Christian Metal Band

In North Carolina

✝Need✝

Bass

Lead Guitar

Lead Vocals

✝Qualifications✝

Must be *Sold-Out to JESUS,* nothing else; must be rooted in the Word; must have "Call" to evangelism thru Metal; must have commitment to excellence in ministry, music, and your talent; must live in or near Triad/Piedmont area of North Carolina; ages 18-25 with own equipment and transportation.

Serious People Contact:

T.M.

P.O. Box 24831

Winston-Salem, NC 27114

919-961-2368

Leave Message

Zion (New Release)

This album smokes! It's got a killer sound that tickles itching ears...but the message won't cater to the flesh. It's confrontational and to the point. "Who pulls the strings? Who makes you do those things?" Satan has "Sold You A Lie." It's time to "Kick In The Gates Of Hell" and "Roll The Rock" away from your heart.

This is 80's metal all the way. Some guy named David (from a black gospel rap group called "Good Blood" or something like that) did an immaculate job producing this project. The guitars are upfront and have a real good tone. The rhythm section is tight and holdin' it all together nicely. On "Is It A Crime" we hear some acoustic guitar tracks. Where have we heard that before? Wasn't it Bloodgood's latest album? Oh well, it's got some passionate vocals with healthy background vocals. This is potent stuff, folks! Zion has been given some creativity that is sure to please. This album ought to be one of the hottest of next year.

"Roll The Rock" and "Less Of Me", the two songs on the "Thunder From The Mount" two-song demo released late last year are included here. According to vocalist Rex Scott, they just barely made it. "The production on the other seven songs are so much better, that we hated to include these." With this release, Zion is going to shed all associations with the AC/DC sound. It's got a modern and classy sound. Comparisons to Dokken would be more appropriate. Once this hits the racks in January, you ought to scoop it up.

--DV

Dancing On The Head Of The Serpent - Jerusalem

This Swedish quartet has definitely hit its stride with this, their sixth release. Jerusalem's deep dedication to Jesus is felt in every groove of this record. The lyrics reflect their commitment to God and their experience with His power.

"I couldn't just sit there pretending everything was nice/ So I stood up on a chair and I started to preach Jesus Christ/ I talked about the real life, talked about the real thing/ And they said we have been waiting, been waiting for the real King/ And the power of God made the whole place rock and shake/ Heaven or Hell is a choice every kid's gotta make." --"Plunder Hell And Populate Heaven"

Featured here are several pop-metal anthems: "Plunder Hell..."; "Rebels Of Jesus Christ"; "Covered By Blood"; and "Catch The Devil, Catch The Thief". They all have gigantic choruses with arena-sized vocals, similar to recent Poison or Kiss.

The overall victorious spiritual warfare message and the aggressive music are every bit as shocking and militant as the album cover artwork. The rhythm tracks are "strong, bold as a lion." Michael Ulvsgard's drums are "stronger than a bull," and Ulf Christiansson's vocals are passionate and gut-level. Here's a singer that doesn't try to prove his manhood by screaming two octaves out of his range.

"Listen To Me" is a presentation of truth. It's kind of like a musical book of Proverbs. It's very forthright in saying, "Wisdom is better than chosen gold/ Knowledge from Heaven gives a fruit hundrefold/ Don't let your feet walk the wicked way/ Let your heart be corrected, and you won't go astray."

One of my favorite moments on the album comes after the first chorus in "Rebels Of Jesus Christ". The shouting chorus and pounding rhythm stops and Ulf grunts out, "Salvation, miracles, and we love you!"

This album should have been on the Pure Metal label rather than Refuge. Like the "Warrior" album, Jerusalem plays some hot and heavy metal. Ulf's guitar leads are flashy, crunchy and soaring, while Redar Paulsen's keyboards are gutsy and energetic. This is one of the year's best. Don't miss it.

--DV

Hammer And Nail - Whitecross

"Hammer And Nail" is an appropriate title for this sizzling hot album. Anyone who appreciated the Whitecross debut album last year will love this one. The production is huge and Rex Carroll's guitar licks are more intense and energetic than ever.

Bands like Whitecross are helping the fledging Christian heavy metal movement come of age. Fans of this genre have been demanding this kind of music for a long time, snatching up every new metal release and often settling for mediocre performances just because it was Christian.

Whitecross wages war against mediocrity with their superb songwriting, brilliant performances and state-of-the-art production. Rex Carroll and company have high standards of quality and it shows.

"Livin' On The Edge" starts the album off rockin', showing Carroll's roots in the blues. It fits right in with the current trend of resurrecting the Led-Zeppelin sound with crunchy guitars.

The title-track is a neo-classical guitar solo coupled with a subtle keyboard backdrop. Sounds nice. It goes right into "Take It To The Limit", a hard driving rocker with Whitecross at full tilt. It's got it all: loud, shaking drums; a tight bass line; fast and difficult guitar leads filling every available nook and cranny; and vocals that soar with clarity and precision. Wenzel surpasses his secular counterpart (Ratt's Stephen Pearcy) in this song, showing a maturity and seasoning since last year's debut album.

"Take It To The Limit", along with "Clock Strikes", resort to a clever trick. The music will suddenly change tempo as the bass and snare drums start pounding with a giant thud, while the guitar and vocals pause--a spot which is often used to get the audience clapping along in concert--before a slow, plodding chorus or verse is sung and a subdued guitar lead is blended in. It's a commercial formula that works. The only flaw with Whitecross using it so often is that listeners may be all too familiar with this.

"Walk With Me" a gentle ballad with a forgiving message, is the only song here that doesn't scream for your attention. Wenzel's voice sounds as though a chorus box multiplied his vocals tenfold. The message is as beautiful as last year's "You're Mine", but the sound just doesn't live up to the Whitecross standard.

"Because Of Jesus" is another blues-oriented rocker with a clear and bold message that roars with an all-out guitar assault. Carroll pulls off licks that should make Eddie Van Halen want to take lessons from him. His technique is good, especially his hammer-ons, but he also adds some emotion with each sustaining note.

"Clock Strikes" features a symphony of clock sounds midway through the song. The chorus is a sing-along chant of "When the clock strikes/ Your time's run out on you...when the clock strikes/ The Lord's gonna give to each man his due."

"Resist Him" encourages us to resist the devil by getting close to God.

"Livin' In A Lost World" slows down a little bit at the beginning, where Wenzel spotlights the melodic side of his voice.

"Top Of The World" is a good anthem, which starts off with an explosive guitar riff and strides along while Wenzel dances on top of the world with his "tailor-made-for-metal" vocals. It sounds like he really had fun singing it.

"Since I've found Your love/ I'm on top of the world." Once you hear this album, you'll be up there too...playing air guitar, of course.

--DV

Metal Mardis Gras Video - Various

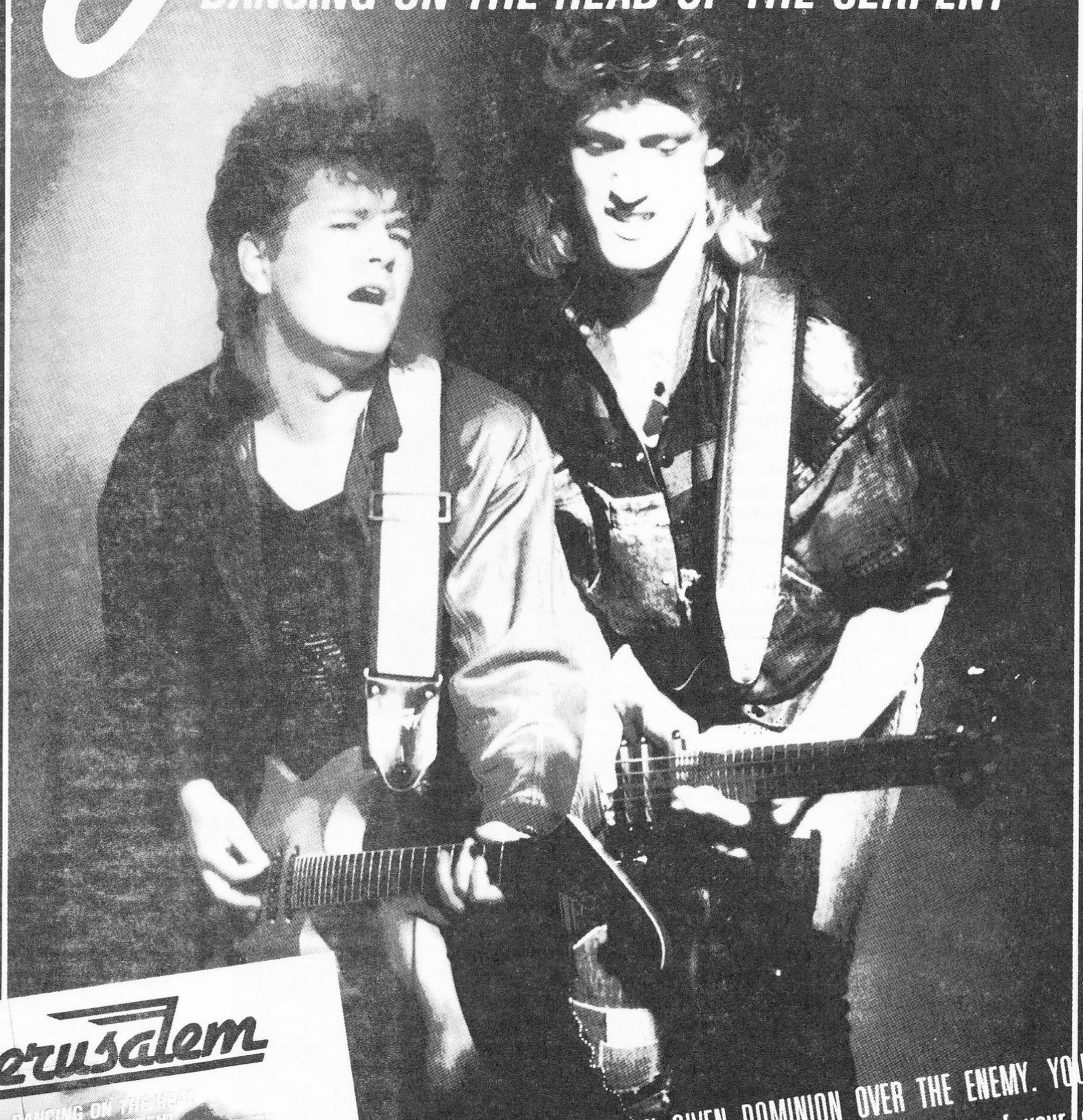
Here is a must-have collector's item for born-again metalheads. It's got footage from an unforgettable 12-hour heavenly metal concert.

Included here are at least two songs each of: Crossforce; Thunder Calling; HERO; Vengeance; Malachia; Soldier; Eternal Ryte; Neon Cross; Bloodgood; Gardian; and Barren Cross.

#1 ROCK SINGLE
CCM UPDATE
September 26, 1988

Jerusalem

DANCING ON THE HEAD OF THE SERPENT



. . . YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN DOMINION OVER THE ENEMY. YOU have a choice to live in victory or fear. THIS is the year of your calling to enter the battle. YOU need have no fear because the LION that roars inside of you is stronger than you have ever known. LET'S shake off every thought of fear and compromise. LET'S fight, let's attack, and let's WIN the battle!

Refuge

© 1988 Refuge Records, a division of Refuge Music Group, 944 Marcon Blvd., Suite 110, Allentown, PA 18103
Distributed by Spectra Distribution, 1101 Cherry Ave., Nashville TN 37203

The video footage is below professional, million-dollar-budget quality. It's similar to what you'd see on big city public television. It is exciting footage with very good audio quality. Although a couple of the bands had sound problems in concert (HERO and Vengeance), overall the audio is top-notch.

Some of the most exciting sound on the video is the guitar sound coming from Tony Polacio's guitar during Gardian's set. He sounded very hot with a good, high-end singing sound.

Some bonus footage we get are backstage interviews with: Vengeance; Neon Cross; Bloodgood; Barren Cross; and HERO. There's some behind-the-scenes reporting by a guy who's dressed up as the spitting image of Saturday Night Live's Father Guido Sarducci. One humorous note was when the camera zooms in on Jimmy Brown of Deliverance (who mysteriously did not show up in the concert footage!) scarfing up some spaghetti. Father Guido Sarducci comments, "Can you believe that the Word of God comes out of that guys mouth?"

For the first time on video, you can see Bloodgood perform "Crucify" and "Messiah". Neon Cross' dramatic song, "Son Of God" is also featured, complete with crucifixion dramatization. The editor must've had a fun time with Vengeance's footage. It's spliced up with flashes of the band whipping their hair and the audience thrashing. One of the songs in the Vengeance footage is called "Prodigal Son", which is the original tune that changed into "Mulligan's Stew" for the "Human Sacrifice" album.

The video ends with a presentation by Pastor Bob Bėeman, telling viewers not to hesitate to call their 800-548-5222 if they need help of any kind.

On the back of the video is a plea not to duplicate this video for your friends. Each sale supports these important toll-free counseling lines. So don't dub it, okay?

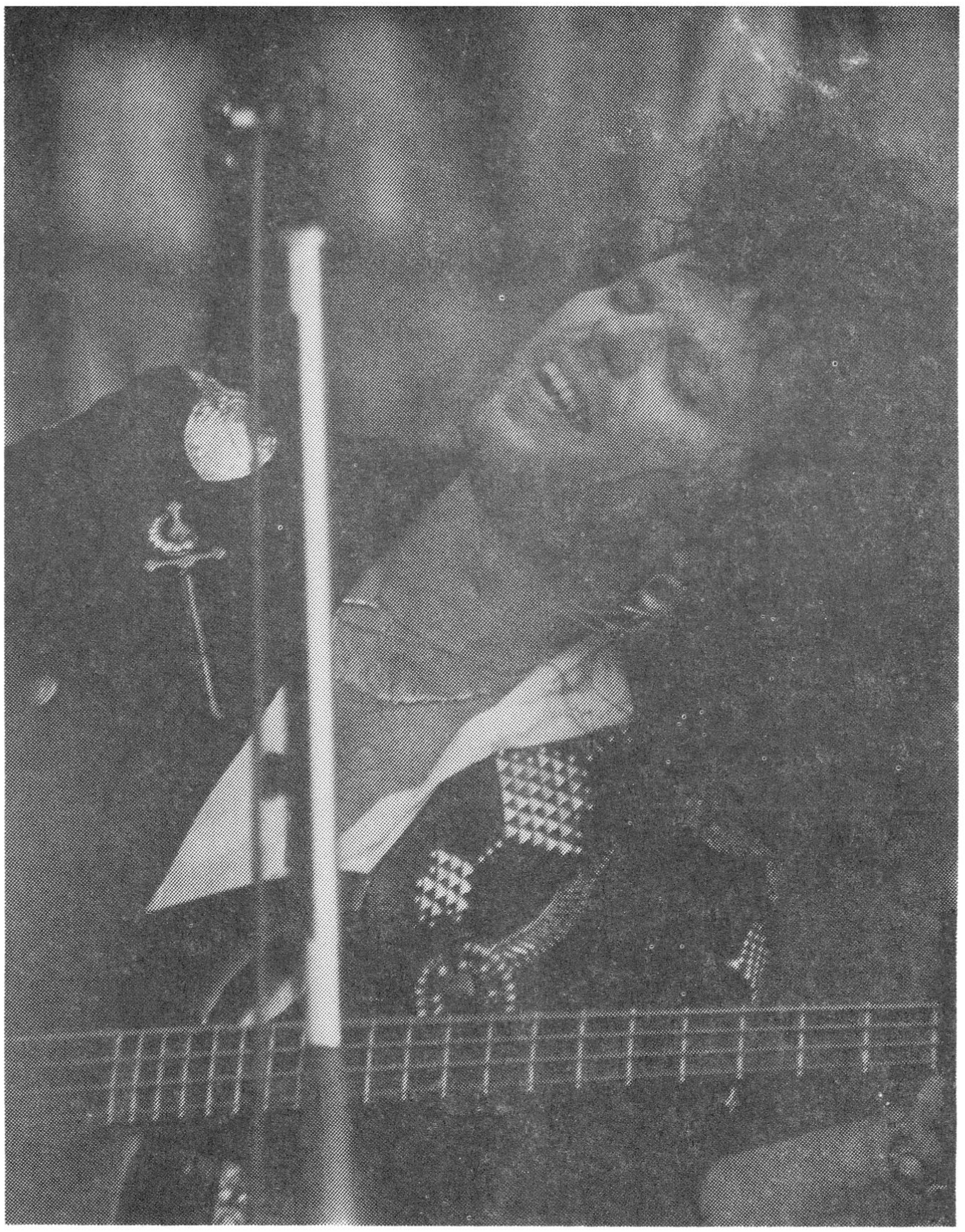
If you'd like this first-ever video look at some of Christian metal's finest, send $19.95 to: Sanctuary, PO Box 4130, Redondo Beach CA 90278-8330.

--DV

Chosen Stranger (7" Single)

These guys have a hot sound. They could get airplay (and already are on a small scale) with the quality of these two songs: "Lonely World" and "The Light". It's good melodic hard rock. Kind of what you'd hear from many of today's metal bands as they reach for that commercial success. It's good material...good enough to receive Harvest Rock Syndicate's choice for a song on Regency Records' "Underground Metal" album. You can order this single for $2 by writing to Chosen Stranger, c/o Russ Atteberry, 4013 Sandhill Rd, Springfield IL 62702.

--DV



Michael Bloodgood
Photo by Karen Loke ©

What's Wrong With Christian Music: The Fans And The Bands

By Michael Bloodgood

When I was first approached by the illustrious editor of this magazine to write an article about this subject I thought, "Hmmm, I hate writing anything based on a negative topic." So I told him no. What finally convinced me to do it was the twenty bucks he slipped me later that day. Hey, I'm just kidding! Anyone who knows Doug knows he doesn't have twenty bucks to his name.

Before I start I want everyone to know that I believe there is so much that is <u>right</u> about Christian music, fans and bands. If I thought it was a hopeless situation I wouldn't have invested so many years into it. I still feel it is the best way to communicate the gospel message to the rock and roll generation(s). The fruits that I have personally experienced through this type of ministry would take up this entire issue of Heaven's Metal. (Don't get any ideas, Doug!)

It's good to focus on the negative elements we feel so positive about. That's one way we can grow and mature. The Bible warns us: "Don't think of yourselves (or your music) more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself (or your music) with sober judgement, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you." (Romans 12:3 NIV).

Herein lies the first danger. Because Christian rock has come under so much scrutiny and criticism of late, those of us on the receiving end have gotten a bit defensive and rightly so. Trouble is, we can "go to bat" for our cause and throw out all the negative comments about rock music and begin to think we are somehow above it all. Some of the stones thrown at the rock music ministry are well aimed and we must be careful to check each one to see if there is any truth in it. If there isn't, then we've nothing to hide or fear. But if that stone stings us a bit, then perhaps we should examine it and see why it hurt.

Item One: **Clothing.** (Yah, I hate this one too.) This "fashion criticism" is for both the bands and the fans. I've had too much trouble discerning any difference at the way some of our fans dress at the shows we've played or the way some of the bands dress at the shows I've seen than from any band in the world. (I'm not talking about the non-believer here, but those I've met who are professing Christians.) Let's just say that some of the things being worn are not being worn to try and draw attention to the Lord Jesus Christ...not by a long shot. Come on, man. Who's kidding who? Does any Christian want to attract a potential boyfriend/girlfriend <u>that</u> way? Should a Christian man or woman be attracted to someone who dresses seductively? Let's get real with each other. There are too many "distractions" in the world as it is to take our attention off the Lord, so why are we trying to tempt each other? (See Phil. 4:8).

Item Two: **The Rebellious Attitude.** Rebellion and rock have been strange bedfellows for a long time. Though much of the saccharin-sweet rock of today hardly seems rebellious, there has traditionally been an underlying attitude of rebellion--especially with hard rock/heavy metal music. Now I'm all for rebellion: rebellion against the world's eroding values and morals (i.e., legalized abortion, pornography, etc.); rebellion against the violations of our fellow man's rights; rebellion against any authority who tries to suppress my freedom to worship as I choose (and we're getting dangerously close to that even in this country); and rebellion against any world system that goes against the Bible and the things of God. However, the attitude of rebellion that I'm talking about must be centered in <u>agape</u> (God's) <u>love</u>; not in uncontrolled emotionalism or with a disrespect for those who might not agree with us. The latter group might include our teachers, parents, pastors, etc., who might not share your enthusiasm for rock and roll. Remember that even Jesus, God in the flesh, was submitted to His earthly parents; that is, as long as He lived with them He was submitted to their authority. The Bible says that we are to obey our parents because: (1) It pleases the Lord (Col. 3:20); (2) You will live long (Exodus 20:12); and (3) That it (your life) will go well with you (Eph. 6:3). Now those are some pretty broad and encouraging promises. There are, however, some pretty negative promises for not obeying your folks, too. Did you know that in the Old Testament a rebellious son was put to death! (See Deut. 21:18). See what I mean? There is a reason for everything God tells us to do. He wants us to enjoy life to its fullest and not to live in or cause a bunch of strife. Too often we are only being "rebellious" because we didn't get our own way. As Christians, shouldn't our goal be to win our teachers, parents and whoever else to the Lord? Let's not blow our chance to be a witness by being a jerk to those who are really just trying to look out for our best interests (even though we may not agree with their methods!).

Item Three: **Idolatry.** Now I'm not talking about little plastic Buddha dolls here, but specifically about the place you give Christian music and/or Christian artists in your personal life. All Bloodgood, Stryper, Barren Cross or the rest of us are trying to do is point you to the Lord...not to us. All of us are just flesh and blood men. That's all, plain and simple. And like any other men, we are prone to make mistakes and trip-up on occasion. Whenever we look to any man instead of to God to meet our needs, we will ultimately be very disappointed. But when we look to God, we will never be disappointed.

When the Bible speaks of God being a jealous God, it isn't talking about the human kind of jealousy that is usually based in frustration, pride or spite. God's jealousy is a zeal to protect a love-relationship or to avenge it when broken. God wants unqualified love and loyalty from His children as He well deserves. J.I. Packer said it best in his classic book, <u>Knowing God</u>, "God seeks what we should seek--His glory in and through men--and it is for the securing of this end, ultimately, that He is jealous."* and later, "What now of us? Does zeal for the house of God, and the cause of God, eat us up?--posses us?--consume us? Can we say, with the Master, 'My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish the work.' (John 4:34)"*. Anything that takes the rightful place of our attention away from God is idolatry. You must recognize and realize that bands like us are just tools that the Lord uses to win souls for Christ, not "rock and roll stars." We need fans who are "consumed for the cause of God" and not just wanting to meet the band and be entertained. We need bands that are "possessed with zeal for the house of God", notjust getting a record deal and playing gigs.

Really it can all be summed up in a very small often overlooked verse written by the Apostle Paul, "So whether you eat or drink or, <u>whatever you do</u>, do it <u>all</u> to the glory of God." (1 Corin. 10:31). This means absolutely <u>everything</u> you and I do should be submitted to the Father: your album collection; the concerts you attend; your life at your school and/or job...everything. Don't lock out the Lord from any part of your life, give it all to Him.

* J.I. Packer, <u>Knowing God</u>, InterVarsity Press, pg. 155 & 158.

PREACHIN'

I read something worthwhile in a book that's not worthwhile. The book is called "Dancing With Demons". It was written by Jeff Godwin and published by Chick Publications. Most everything Chick has printed, in my opinion, is sensationalistic and attempts to uncover some conspiracy in everything they disagree with, which in this case happens to be Christian rock. There was, however, a very good point brought up: **Jesus mentioned something about wiping the dust off our sandles when a town (or group of people) did not accept the Gospel message. He did not say to water down our message until it was "more accessible".**

What are we doing bands? Is God calling us to be mystery writers or to proclaim salvation through Jesus Christ?

We ought to take a close look at the example of Jerusalem and Leviticus. Both of these bands are led by men of God. They stress and practice being very upfront and simple with the message of Jesus Christ. It all comes back to the question of ultimately trying to please God or man. Who will <u>you</u> choose?

Let's purify ourselves, Christian rockers. Judgment begins in the house of God. Do not make room for sin in your life! Do battle with evil. Submit therefore to God. When you do this, it will be much easier to resist the devil.

There's some sickness in our part of the body. We need to act more humble. Headliners: try being more gracious to the opening bands. How about helping them set up instead of the other way around? Musicians: be bold, humble, and loving to people in the industry (like music shop retailers, booking agents, and other musicians), and not just in front of the fans. Fans: be gracious and submissive to parents, friends, and neighbors who don't understand you or want you to turn it down. Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and bitterness and hate are not of God. Let's not be so quick to defend our validity as a legitimate part of the body that we overlook or wink at sin in our own rank, okay?

The reports of Divine Right signing to Frontline are not official. Negotiations are under way and look pretty sure, but the contract hasn't been signed yet.

Malachia changed their name to **Bashan-Tyre** and has recorded a new single and video called "Runaway". The video is due to be aired on TBN's "Real Videos" soon.

Malachia changed their name again. This time they're "Vision".

Give "Malachia/Bashan-Tyre/Vision" a new name! Send your suggestions to Malachia, 6614 Sherman Way, Bell CA 90201.

* **The Cutting Edge.** Subs are $9 for 12 issues. Overseas send $20. Dan Kennedy, 8303 Hilton Way, Orlando FL 32810.

* **Kosher Records** handles imports, most records in print and some that aren't! 900 N. "L" Street, Lompoc CA 93436.

* **Rizzen Roxx:** full metal explosion. Speed, glam, heavy and screamin' metal. PLUS fiction, insight, and RAD comics. $3 for 2 samples, $4 for 3 issues, or $9 for six issues. Send & pay to Rizzen Roxx, 10202 Tamarack Dr, Vienna VA 22180.

* **White Throne:** this 48 page monster has over 50 LP/demo reviews, everything you ever wanted to know about Christian Heavy Metal but were afraid to ask. Current issue: $3, to White Throne, PO Box 20577, Dept H, Castro Valley CA 94546.

* **The Burning Bush** covers the best in Christian alternative music including new wave, punk and metal. Many reviews, interviews, editorials and news will pack 6 issues of one of the underground's most diverse mags. Only $5 for 6 issues ($9) overseas) and $1 for a sample copy ($1.50 overseas) Write: The Burning Bush, c/o J Bauman, Route #1, Hwy. 23, Mineral Point WI 53565.

* **R.O.C.K.I.N. Magazine** - Fires up freedom, rips out doubt, rolls away death, while rockin your spirit, mind and body to the core. Plus you'll get struck every month with high voltage update. Send $9 for 6 issues and 12 updates to: Michael A. Miller, 8105 #9 Porter Ridge Land, Manassas VA 22110.

* **Take A Stand:** Christian rock/ metal musicians newsletter. $6 for 6 monthly issues. Send long self-addressed, stamped envelope for free first issue to: Take A Stand, PO Box 10741, Scottsdale AZ 85271.

* **NOTEBORED** - The Christian rock magazine you've been waiting for. A complete, bi-monthly tabloid being recognized as an industry leader by breaking stories on groups like Whitecross, Mercy Seat and Shout. Record reviews and columns that may ruffle your feathers. An honest look at Christian rock and Christians in rock. And a necessary addition to your reading repetoire. Send $1 for current issue, $5 for a six-issue (one year) sub. Checks or money orders (no cash, please) to: NOTEBORED, Box 202, RD 1, Atglen PA 19310.

* **THE OBLIGATOR** and **Conquest** have merged into one mag. The Obligator is the name and it promises to be hot. If you already susbscribe to Conquest, your sub money may be put towards six issues of the new Obligator. New address is PO Box 915, Muskegon MI 49443-0915. (Trial issue is $1)

* **LIGHT ATTACK**, Hard Rock and White Metal magazine, is looking for demos, bios, testimonies and photos. Review and free issue guaranteed. Please send material to: Light Attack, Urs Staedeli, Haltingerstr. 23, CH-4057 Basel/ Switzerland. (Written in German)

* **Zunrise** is a metal mag from Sweden. Bands can send records, demos and bios and receive Swedish press. Write Tomas Einarsson, Pl. 2090.280, 10 Sosdala, Sweden.

* **Revelation** is a 3 hour Christian metal show on FM radio in Australia. Write Lindsay McMillan, Gippslano FM, PO Box 62, Morwell 3840, VIC, Australia.

* **Seraiah** needs a vocalist. Accepting demo tapes with pictures and a bio. PO Box 1192, Marion IN 46952.

* **Power/ Speed Metallers** wanted: Must be a mature metal musician; must be a mature Christian; must have a seatbelt strong enough to enter new orbits; must be familiar with and pray the Rosary. Contact Ed White after 4 pm CST. (918) 835-4337.

* **Hear The Light** radio show. Please send demos, records or cds. C/O Roger Keller, 2402 Dewdney Ave E, Regina, Saskachewan, Canada, S4N 4V5.

* **Attention Singers:** The heavy metal band "Precious Death" is seeking a lead vocalist. We have a powerful sound yet very melodic. Only serious ministry-minded musicians please. Either call (213) 534-1044 or send info on yourself (ie. demo tape, photo, etc) to: 1417 254th St, Harbor City CA 90710. Precious Death has an opening on Cal Metal III.

* I would like to have guy pen-pals who are into Christian metal. Write to me at: Tracie Wheat, 1225 Boone Hill Rd, Somerset Apt A-5, Summerville SC 29483.

* **Christ's Army** is an action group to promote Christian metal by writing secular media people. Write to get involved. 3003 Charter Rock, San Antonio TX 78230.

* **Risen Rock** - The alternative underground music magazine. One year sub (6 issues) is $3. PO Box 1564, Point Roberts WA 98281-1564.

* **White Metal Explosion** airs daily on WSSA AM. Send records, demos, and cds. Write WSSA Radio, Attn: Dean Clark, PO Box 831, Morrow GA 30260.

* **Where does Jesus rock on**? On the Rock of Baltimore show every Wednesday night on 1590 AM! Send us YOUR demo for airplay: Tony Stramella, The Rock of Baltimore, 376 Jamie Court, Glen Burnie MD 21061.

* **Hal Ministries** is looking for members for an up and coming band. We have a singer plus possibly a guitarist. We need some other instrument players. If interested, please send demo and bio to: David Arias, 1212 W. Cinnabar Ave, Phoenix AZ 85021.

* **Sword** is the newest Christian newsletter on the block. It's bi-monthly newsletter covering Christian metal, punk, speed, etc. $8 ($10 Overseas). Checks to: Brian Smith, 2702 Sherrill Park Dr, Richardson TX 75081

* **Power Supply** Rock to metal FM Radio show from 4-6pm on Saturday. Stress demos a lot. PO Box 564, Malabar FL 32950-0564.

* **Street Level** needs promo materials to air. Send to: Street Level, WDTR 90.9 FM, 9345 Lawton Ave, Detroit MI 48206.

* **Christian Hard Rock/Metal Band** seeks talented, ministry-oriented lead guitarist. Must be willing to go into the ministry full time and have own equipment along with being all sold out for Jesus Christ. Interested guitarists please call James Tate at (405) 376-5046 after 1pm or write at 517 N. Mockingbird Way, Mustang OK 73064.

* Bands: A new magazine in Minnesota wants demos for reviews, pictures and info, plus tape ordering info. Send to: Radically Saved, 11258 103rd Ave, Kimball MN 55353.

* **The Moses Austin Band** is looking for lead, bass, and keyboard players for Christian Southern Rock/Blues band. Vocals are much preferred. Dedication and equipment required. Possible full time ministry in near future. Contact: The Moses Austin Band c/o John Simpson, 722 Delmar, Festus MO 63028, (314) 937-9627. (We have opened concerts for Messiah Prophet and Stevie & The Saints)

* **The Real News** - Real news, real reviews, real interviews, and a real message! $6 for 1 year (6 issues) or $1 sample. Write: TRN c/o Larry Da Miles, 8596 Woodhaven SW, Byron Center MI 49315.

* **KGHO's Heavenly Metal Show** needs demos, cassettes, albums for airplay. Please send to: KGHO's Heavenly Metal, c/o JT Thomas, 35 Meander Way, Aberdeen WA 98520. (206) 532-2591.

* **Raze Hell Promotions** now accepting white metal demos, bios, and info for heavy metal rock mag "Loud" with national distribution. Please send to: 818 S. Dexter, Suite 605, Glendale CO 80222.

* **Different Drummer** - an alternative Christian music 'zine. Info and reviews of the BEST hardcore, punk, metal, and new music. Issue #1 only 2 stamps or 50 cents to: Different Drummer, c/o Erin Hooper, 1793 Weston Circle, Camarillo CA 93010.

Cover Photos of Glenn Kaiser and Rex Carroll are both copyrighted by Karen Loke ©

* Former **Silent Riech** guitarist looking for Christian metal band that is willing to tour. I have been playing 8 years and have live experience. Also I have mastered harmony guitar...for bands that already have a guitarist. Willing to relocate for auditions, etc...For a 90-minute demo of original material, write Beau Cano, 1701 S. Garfield, Amarillo TX 79106. Serious inquiries only.

* **Radically Saved:** The magazine that praises in the morning; thrashes at night; and does everything else in between. Includes interviews, album reviews, humor, and encouraging articles. Don't miss it. Subscribe for six issues that will last over a year for $6.75. (Overseas $14. Canada $7.50) to: Radically Saved, 11258 103rd Ave, Kimball MN 55353.

* **Stainless Steel** on CHRW 94.7 FM, a 3-hour heavenly metal show on Saturday mornings in the London, Ontario area. Bands and record companies or distributors please send records or tapes to: Stainless Steel, c/o Chris Beard, 61e Wellsley Cres. London, Ontario, N5V1J6, Canada. Your prayers and letters of support are welcome!

* **Professional guitarist** seeks mature, melodic metal band/ musicians for professional work. Devoted Christians only. Contact Brian Belew @ (405) 495-8817.

* **CROSS METAL** c/o Arjan Berhelaar, Joh. Posthof 8, 31G1BJ Hoogvliet, The Netherlands, requests news releases, photos, records and demos for review.

* **Real Rock Fellowship** seeks Angela Urtasun. Write Real Rock Fellowship, PO Box 1625, Glen Burnie MD 21061.

* **Formed Christian Band** looking for lead singer. All original material along lines of Van Halen, White Lion, Def Leppard, etc (glam rock/ commercial metal, but no makeup). Are you the Mike Tramp (White Lion) of Christian rock? If so, call or write: Joey Long, 602 College Blvd, Coleman TX 76834. (915) 625-3192 or 625-4188.

* **The Rock** is a weekly Christian metal news show on Oklahoma City's KOKF 91 FM. 91FM is a Christian station that plays metal every night. The Rock is aired three nights a week. Please send news on your band, press kits, demos, tapes, records for possible airplay. Write The Rock, PO Box 780424, Oklahoma City OK 73178.

Leviticus Goes Fishin' In America's Heartland Cont'd:

drumming was awesome, especially during the opening of "Majestic In Power".

Leviticus played some of their older tunes, such as "On The Rock" and "Deborah And Barak", both from "The Strongest Power". They covered almost all the songs on "Together With Friends" that Peo originally sang lead vocals on.

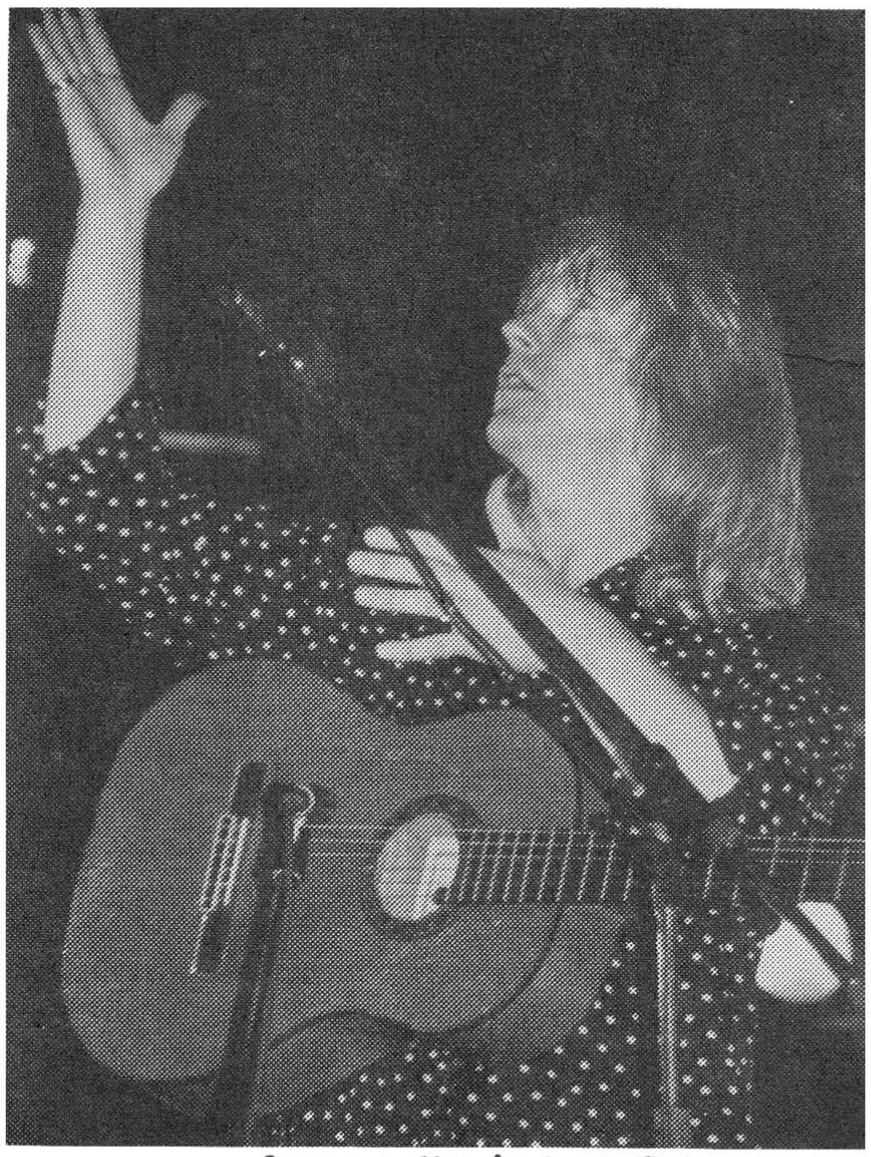
Leviticus put on a world-class performance and reflected the Lord's glory in their music. All I could do after the show was to go off in the woods and pray! How's that for a glorifying show? I was definitely drained of emotion afterwards.

The next day of the festival featured another set by Leviticus before Larry went on. It was funny to hear one of the promoters tell Bjorn "The crowd tonight is really here to see Larry. They might not like real loud heavy metal, so it would be best if you played some of your mellower songs at less volume. Know what I mean?" Bjorn just smiled and said, "Not really." They came out rockin', but I didn't see anyone leave (Then again I was pressed up in the very front).

Larry Norman came out next and put on a typically-classic Larry Norman concert. He does so well at joking with a crowd and winning them over that they don't seem to mind being rebuked with the Word of God. Larry mixes in a lot of humor with some very deep and challenging thoughts...and he's just being himself. That's one of the things that makes Larry's music so lasting over time.

Larry's band, who was none other than Leviticus (minus Bjorn), came out to support him for his more rockin' numbers, like: "Why Should The Devil Have All The Good Music?"; "Why Don't You Look Into Jesus?"; and "Messiah".

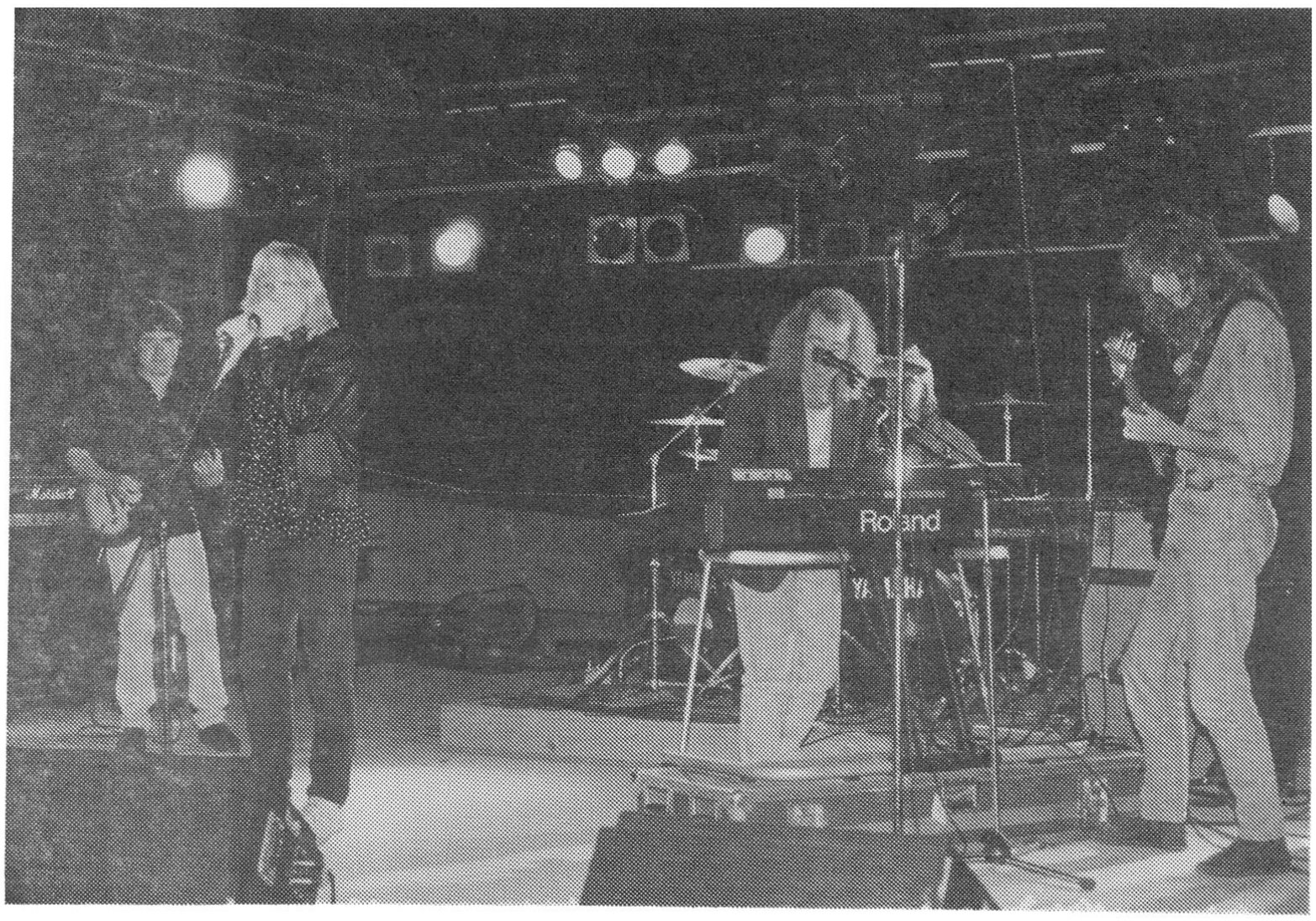
One of the highlights of the weekend for me was to sit in on the rehearsals when Larry was teaching Leviticus his tunes. Kjell, Niklas,



Larry talkin' about God
Photo by Karen Loke ©

and Peo picked up on 'em very fast. Jon Linn,. Larry's longtime guitarist, flew in the day of the show (Cause his wife just had twins!) to add lead guitar to the performance.

Overall, Labor Day weekend this year was an unforgettable experience. Larry's always special and Leviticus is downright breathtaking!



Larry and band
Photo by Karen Loke ©

XALT
Dark War

For Booking, Concert & Merchandise Information...

Call or Write:

E & E RECORDS

XALT MINISTRIES

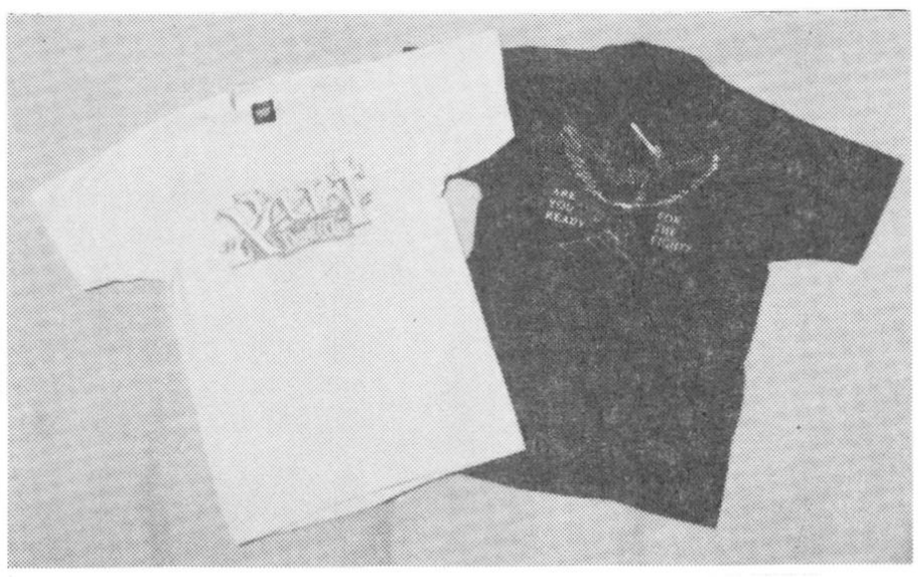
P.O. Box 113
Holt, Michigan 48842
U.S.A.
(517) 394-2110

The battle is raging on E and E records
latest white-hot metal release...
"Dark War" by XALT
A blistering onslaught...Sure to please!

Available on Cassette!

$8.00 Each Postpaid*

Spring Arbor Dist. No. 000-692-2619



XALT "DARK WAR" T-SHIRTS

With Full-Color Logo
Available in Medium, Large & X-Large
Black or White T-Shirt (Specify)

$12.00 Each Postpaid*

ORDER TODAY !

Please Accept My Order For:

	XALT "Dark War" Cassettes at $8. ea.pp.	
	"Dark War" BLACK T-Shirts at $12.ea.pp. Size: ____Med. ____Large ____XL	
	"Dark War" WHITE T-Shirts at $12.ea.pp. Size: ____Med. ____Large ____XL	
*Overseas Orders Add $3.00 Postage	Total Enclosed	

NAME:_____
ADDRESS:_____
CITY:_____STATE:_____ZIP:_____

Please make Check or Money Order Payable to:
XALT • P.O. Box 113 • Holt, Michigan 48842 U.S.A.

HM1

INTENSE METAL FOR INTENSE TIMES

SACRED WARRIOR / REBELLION

VENGEANCE / HUMAN SACRIFICE

FOR AN 18" x 24" INTENSE RECORDS POSTER SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR $4.00 + $1.00 POSTAGE AND HANDLING TO GRACELAND INC., P.O.BOX 9318, WAUKEGAN, IL 60079.

INTENSE Records

Have you ever been in love before? You know, where you sit around all day long and think about this peer of the opposite sex?

God is madly in love with you. You are constantly on His mind. He spends time thinking of ways to show you that He loves you.

Often times we'll resort to getting one of this person's friends to tell them that we love 'em.

Well, God has told me to tell you that He loves you.

When you love someone, you do all sorts of things to impress them and please them. Maybe you would draw a picture, paint something or create a sculpture.

God has crafted a wonderful piece of art to impress you and bring you great joy. Look around you. Look at the sky, the mountains, the trees, flowers, birds, deer, sunsets, and all of creation. God has created the heavens and the earth. Do you continue to ignore Him? He's presented to you something that pales a dozen roses. He's presented to you a marvelous creation. He wants your affection. He'd just love to hear you say, "Thanks."

Sooner or later, when you love someone, you get around to writing them a love letter. In it you spell out how much you love this person.

Guess what? God has written you a love letter. It's called "The Bible". In it He spells out His great love for you and His plan for you to spend eternity with Him.

When we're in love we often use phrases like, "I'll love you forever." God can and will love you forever...and He'll give you eternal life in which you'll be able to love Him forever.

After you try the subtle approach and have communicated with a person you're in love with, you'll eventually speak to them the three words that all of us want to hear: "I love you."

If you would just be quiet and still before God, He will tell you He loves you. Try it. Ask Him flat out how He feels about you, and assume that He's going to answer you. In the quiet part of your brain, that place that is uniquely you, I'm convinced you'll get the soft, non-audible reply of "I love you."

Once you're in love, and know that the other person loves you, you feel great. Your emotions bring a warm peace to your innermost being.

When you commit yourself to loving God by accepting His sacrificial death and resurrection for you, you will enter into a relationship with Him. Now you can have the opportunity to feel His presence. His Spirit will let your spirit know that you are loved. It'll feel great. Feelings are a nice by-product of real, everlasting love.

God really loves you. I urge you to return that love to Him. It's your choice.

Name Exalter Contest!

Exalter is looking to change its name and wants to employ the creative minds of Heaven's Metal subscribers. Be inventive! Send your group name ideas to: Exalter, c/o Jeff Halley, 1708 W. Johnson, Denison TX 75020.

The person who comes up with the best name not only gets the satisfaction of knowing that they named the band, but they also get a demo tape, hereunto unavailable to the public.

Heaven's Metal caught up with Exalter at a concert at the House Of The Lord in Austin. This group hails from Denison, Texas and consists of: Dino DeBlasio - lead guitar; Jeff Halley - lead vocals; Chris Lamury - drums; and Mike "McRadical" - bass. Formerly known in the secular metal scene as Hell Razor, this band now rocks for the Lord under the name Exalter. These guys have a real heart for carrying out the Great Commission and seeing lives changed.

And you probably thought that was all, huh? Well, here's the first ever **HEAVEN'S METAL TRIVIA CONTEST.**

The first two winners will receive a free copy of Xalt's "Dark War" cassette and Faith Of Steel's original single. Seven runners-up will receive Holy Soldier and Vengeance centerfolds. Send your answers to Heaven's Metal quick!

1) What band was Larry Farkas in before Vengeance?

2) What kind of drums does Robert Sweet use?

3) What is Oz Fox's real name?

4) What band recorded "You Lose" before Bloodgood?

5) What Christian metal band toured with Twisted Sister in Finland?

6) What was the name of Darrell Mansfield's first solo album?

7) What label was the very first Saint album pressed on?

8) What band has been on the cover of Heaven's Metal twice and yet still isn't signed? (Wake up record companies)

Answers will be printed in Issue #19.

All contents copyright © 1988 Douglas Gene Van Pelt